

# Volunteers make a difference in our 4-H programs!

Did you know that more than 500,000 adults volunteer with 4-H programs each year? Volunteering is fun and rewarding and enables you to share your experiences with others. Do you like bird watching, cooking, gardening or working with animals? There are many interesting projects and fun things to do in 4-H.

Imagine a young person's satisfaction at learning a new skill, or at doing a job well. Imagine your own satisfaction at watching a young person blossom. You can help our young people as they gain confidence and self-esteem - essential ingredients for happy, productive citizens.

Whether you want to be a club leader or work with kids on a short-term project, there's a role for you in 4-H. Many volunteer roles involve working directly with youth while others do not. Some volunteers are engaged with the program for a long period of time, such as leading a 4-H Club for several years. Others volunteer on a one-time, short-term or even an annual basis, for example, being a homework helper at an after-school program, volunteering at a special interest workshop, serving as a judge for public speaking or for an event at the 4-H Youth Fair. In whatever role you may choose to volunteer, our 4-H office can provide training, resources and support that can help make your volunteer position as rewarding as possible for everyone involved.

**Are you a caring adult? When you volunteer, you are a catalyst for positive change! Join the revolution of responsibility! Here is our volunteer enrollment process:**

## New Volunteers

### 1. Fill out an application

Print and fill out 4-H Cayuga County volunteer application packet. You also need to attach a copy of your driver's license for background screening. Please note that **we need your signatures hand-written**. Once you have these two items, **submit them either by mail or in person**. The application contains important personal information for you and we do not accept submission by email to keep your information safe.

[Volunteer Application Form](#)

### 2. Screening Process

All new 4-H volunteers must go through a screening process including a background check and driving record check. Our #1 priority is the safety of young people. We do all we can to protect young people and keep them safe while they are in our care. When you become a 4-H volunteer, you are part of the plan to keep our young people safe.

### 3. Sexual Harassment Training

Visit <http://blogs.cornell.edu/ccevolunteertraining/required-training/>. Select "Watch Video." The video is just under ten minutes. Confirm that you completed the training using the link provided on the website. Please forward the confirmation email to [emw54@cornell.edu](mailto:emw54@cornell.edu).

### 3. New Volunteer Training

New volunteers should complete the online training modules. The instructions can be found [here](#).

We provide training for new volunteer at least once a year, where we talk about the scope of 4-H program and what we expect from you as caring adult volunteers. Please contact our office for upcoming training date.

### 5. Approval

The County Director reviews and approves 4-H volunteer appointments after

- You have completed the application
- You have passed the screening process
- You complete all of the New Volunteer Training required by your county

Once you are approved, the fun begins! Thank you for joining our 4-H family!

### Volunteer Opportunities

**Organizational Leader** – The organizational leader establishes and maintains a club structure that supports 4-H Youth Development activities for school age youth within a defined area. He/she works with the project leader, activity leader and youth in planning the club program; arranges for meeting facilities; complies with Cornell Cooperative Extension procedures; ensures that all enrollments, program registrations and reports are filled out and turned in to the county 4-H office; keeps the 4-H Educator staff informed about activities, accomplishments and problems. An organizational leader may also act as a project leader.

**Project Leader** – The project leader provides instruction and guidance to 4-H members when doing a project. The key component of the project leader's role is teaching; the "classroom" is wherever the members meet in order to work on their project(s). Project leaders may also assist with project-related activities on the county level and guide members in the selection of projects and the completion of project reports.

**Activity Leader** – The activity leader is responsible to help members plan for and participate in one or more specific activities the club has included in its yearly plan. These include such things as community service, public presentation, special celebrations, trips, etc.

**Resource Leader** – Resource leaders are volunteers who are selected by Cooperative Extension staff to aid, train and work with 4-H club leaders or members on a short-term basis. They have a specialization in a certain program area. Resource leaders often teach workshops or serve as evaluators at fairs and contests.

**Fundraising Volunteer** - You can have this opportunity to enrich your experience, promote your career, and network. You can work with event planning, donors stewardship, and other creative ideas for fundraising with our team!

Different 4-H programs can utilize volunteers in opportunities that are a one-day commitment:

**Public Presentations and Produced in New York** – needs volunteers for evaluators, room assistants, and sign-in.

**Horse Bowl/Hippology/Horse Judging; Dairy Bowl/Dairy Challenge/Dairy Judging** – needs volunteers to ask questions, assist in rooms, and assist at stations.

**Animal Science Clinics** – need volunteers to help organize, facilitate event.

**Youth Fair** – Need volunteers to help with many different jobs. Ex. Announcer, gate handlers, etc. Usually held end of July.

Prospective volunteers complete an application form. In addition, those who volunteer to work directly with youth will be asked to consent to a criminal background screening at Cooperative Extension's expense, as a means of ensuring the safety and security both of our volunteers and of the people we serve through our programs.

