

PARENTS ROLE IN THE 4-H PROGRAM

Parents have a significant role in 4-H. They are vital to a successful 4-H experience for their children. Parents provide encouragement and support for members to complete their 4-H club work including project work.

Parents need to learn when the club and project meetings are and make sure the members get to the meetings and see that their children bring what is needed.

Parents can help their children select, finance, and manage their projects. They also help by providing the equipment and materials their child needs for their projects. They help their children learn the requirements for the project and complete those requirements. Parents also know children learn most when they are the ones doing the project, so parents provide “shadow helpers” and let the members do their own 4-H project work.

They also provide support and assistance to the total club. Parents help the leader. (Leaders need and rely on parents help to make 4-H successful). Parents should attend the club meetings and events whenever possible and help out as needed. They often have skills or other resources needed in the club and/or can share their special talents. Many leaders are also parents of members. They have become leaders to help their and other’s children.

Parents can gain satisfaction when they make a meaningful contribution to a program in which their children are participating. A parent who is significantly involved in the 4-H Program will have a better understanding of how the program works. They will then be better able to assist their children in having a positive experience.

Some specific responsibilities of parents (or Home Helpers) include:

Provide or arrange for transportation for your children.

Show interest in what your children are doing and give them encouragement.

Provide any materials and equipment your child may need.

Help out the club and leader when asked. Don’t wait to be asked, VOLUNTEER

See that your child finishes as well as starts their projects(s).

Be a “shadow helper” - guide, advise, help - but let the child do his or her own work.

Encourage your child when he succeeds and even more when he fails.

Encourage and reward effort and progress, as well as the end results.

Help your 4-Her be a good sport and appreciate the success of others.

Support the 4-H leaders.

Let the leaders know you appreciate them.

Make 4-H a family affair, get the whole family involved in 4-H activities.

Learn and support the goals and objectives of 4-H.

Remember, the development of the youth is the mission of 4-H.

Know that you are building for the future.

Know that today’s 4-H activities build the citizens and leaders of tomorrow.

Know and support the Kansas 4-H Life Skills: A Positive Self Concept; An Inquiring Mind; A Concern for the Community; Healthy Interpersonal Relationships; Sound Decision Making.

K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.