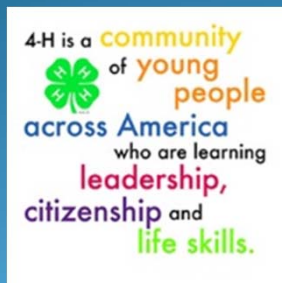


# University of Wyoming 4-H New Volunteer Leader Orientation



The Purpose of  
4-H, Your Role and  
Responsibility as a  
Leader

## What is 4-H?

- 4-H is an non-formal, practical, learning-by-doing, educational program for youth.
- **4-H Mission:** *4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.*
- **4-H Vision:** A world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change.



## The purpose of 4-H is not the County Fair.

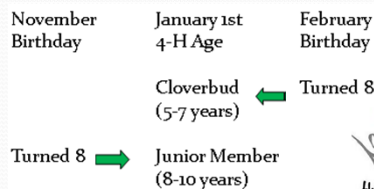
Fair **exhibits** are the culmination of project work, not the focus. The exhibit should represent the member's best efforts.

The project is **part of the on-going** learning and growth of the member that occurs during the 4-H year.



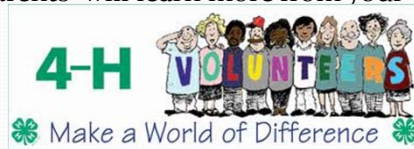
## 4-H Membership

- The “4-H Year” begins October 1<sup>st</sup> and ends September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Age is calculated using the “4-H Age”: What age was the child on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> of the current 4-H year?
- Different opportunities are available for different ages:
  - **Cloverbuds**
    - Have a 4-H age of 5-7.
  - **Traditional 4-H Program**
    - Junior Members: have a 4-H age of 8-10.
    - Intermediate Members: have a 4-H age of 11-13.
    - Senior Members: have a 4-H age of 14-18.



## Leader Expectations

- Know, honor and explain county/state/club **deadlines**.
- Conduct **project meetings** to educate both 4-H members *and* parents.
- **Encourage**, don't pressure.
  - For a 4-Her to truly succeed they must have the desire.
- Explain and Teach Values ~ Don't just teach the project.
- **Respect** → Facilities, leaders, parents, members, & equipment.
- **Model ethics** – Members and parents will learn more from your actions than your words.
- Volunteer Behavior Agreement



## Portfolios

- In Wyoming the 4-H Portfolio is a record book of youth goals, achievements, and self evaluation.
- Every member is encouraged to complete a portfolio each year.
- Portfolios teach youth responsibility, good record keeping, goal setting, and reflection.
- Portfolios are due \_\_\_\_\_.
- <http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/publications/portfolio/index.html>

## What are your responsibilities?

- **Read communication** from the County Extension Office
- If you don't know --- please **ask**.
- If you are concerned --- please **ask again**.
- Make sure your club/group is getting their paperwork in on time. You don't want kids to lose out.
- Work with your parents.
- Remember, you will **make a difference in a child's life!**

## Requirements to become a 4-H leader

- An adult can apply to become a 4-H volunteer leader at any time of the year.
  - 1st - complete the online enrollment profile on [www.4honline.com](http://www.4honline.com)
  - 2nd - complete the required training:
    - Face to face training with county 4-H educator (individual or group)
    - or**
    - Online leader training **and** a follow-up meeting with county 4-H educator
  - 3rd - submit consent for volunteer screening
- Attend training at least once every 5 years.

## What happens next?

- You will receive an email titled ***Volunteer Leader Screening Instructions*** that contains personalized links and instructions on the screening process.
- **Criminal background check** is conducted through the UW Department of Human Resources (every 5 years)
  - Includes convictions of child endangerment, crimes of a sexual nature, felony involving violence and financial crimes
- **Motor vehicle record (MVR)** check is conducted through the UW Department of Risk Management (annually)
- Information for both checks will be submitted on-line only by you

## Training Opportunities

- Opportunity for training includes:
  - Training offered at the county 4-H level
  - Online leader training modules  
<http://4h.wsu.edu/volunteertraining/course.html>
  - State Leaders' Conference
  - Western Region Leaders' Forum
  - Master 4-H Volunteers
  - Project specific certifications (if offered)
  - External training around subject matter related to your role in the 4-H program
  - Training provided by your employer that relates to your 4-H volunteer role

## What do you need?

- Training needs
  - Subject matter training
  - Project materials
  - Teaching skills
- Help from parents
- IRS deductions & donations
- Store discounts
- Club record keeping help



## Once you're a leader:

- As a University of Wyoming 4-H volunteer leader you are entitled to protection under the University of Wyoming's general liability and insurance programs for actions related to the conduct of your official 4-H activities and duties so long as:
  - Your approval as a 4-H volunteer leader is current;
  - You conform with the policies and core values of the University of Wyoming Extension 4-H Program;
  - You have obeyed all applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and
  - You are performing within the course and scope of your role as a 4-H volunteer leader.

Thanks for completing this orientation. Please remember...

- complete the **evaluation** on the State 4-H Web Site, and
- **set up an appointment** to meet with your County 4-H Educator.

