



Role of the Volunteer 4-H Leader

Volunteer 4-H leaders are the key to successful 4-H programs. They help youth develop into responsible and productive individuals. Working with youth is exciting and challenging, and it provides personal satisfaction. Because youth are lively and active, 4-H leaders often find use for several different kinds of leadership skills. Leaders can contribute in many ways. The Oregon 4-H Youth Development Program includes the following leadership roles for adults:

- **Community Club Leader:** he or she would be part of a 4-H club located in a community or neighborhood where the members are enrolled in a number of different projects. Additional adults would help as project leaders in the club.
- **Project Club Leader:** he or she would be part of a club that includes members interested in one project area (e.g. sewing or music). Additional adults may help with the project.
- **Activity Leader:** he or she would be part of either a community or a project club where you would help members with a specific activity (e.g. planning field trips). Other adults would organize the club.
- **Resource Leader:** he or she would be part of either a community or a project club where you would help members with a specific project (e.g. learning to sew). Other adults would organize the club.

4-H club leaders are adults who enjoy working with youth. They do not need to be experts to lead youth in the 4-H program. Club leaders may work individually, or in groups. Some of the duties of a volunteer leader include:

- Enrolling members in the program
- Helping members to plan club meetings
- Arranging educational activities and events for members
- Providing encouragement and feedback on members' work
- Attending leader meetings to obtain information and materials for the program

Many resources are available to help 4-H leaders. Your county Extension staff members are available to help with identification of additional leaders, members, resources, and information about the countywide 4-H program.

OR4HW-0009L

Tonya Aitkin, 4-H youth development faculty, Wasco County.
2005