

New  
Jersey **4-H**

# Leader Training Series



## Welcome to the 4-H Family!

### A 4-H Vision

### 4-H is . . . People

### 4-H is . . . Experience Centered Learning

### New Pictures for the Vision

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The name 4-H conjures up different pictures for different people. Your vision of 4-H may be “cows and cooking”, a model rocket launch, county and state fairs, boys and girls learning about conservation or marine science, square dancing and clogging, horse shows; or a youth, defying gravity, airborne over a skateboard barely attached to her feet! Your vision depends on your experiences with 4-H Youth Development.

Whatever your vision, 4-H is about people, both adult and youth. 4-H is about helping adults and youth grow, learn, and develop into the most competent people they can be. It is about Extension educators teaching the latest technology and information to people in the community where they live and work so they can put the knowledge to work for themselves, their families, communities, and society as a whole.

4-H is education for life! The 4-H Program is experience centered, not just information giving. This learn-by-doing approach enables young people to learn what is useful to them. It enables them to adapt what they learn to everyday life through action and reflection. 4-H gives youth the opportunity to experience a sense of accomplishment and success, key ingredients to gaining a sense of self-esteem.

That is why the 4-H program, in New Jersey and many other states, is adding new pictures to the vision of 4-H. Now you can envision:

- a 4-H activity or a 4-H club in an after or before school child care setting;
- a small business being run by a group of urban youth;
- a group of children, in a short term program, learning about the right foods to eat;
- a group of youth in a housing project or a 4-H club composed of adjudicated youth;
- a classroom teacher using 4-H curriculum to enrich his curriculum or leading a 4-H club in school.

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## **Create a New Vision**

And we will leave a mental page blank so together we can create new visions to reach youth!

## **4-H is . . . Volunteers**

4-H volunteers are taught how to provide a safe environment for youth so they can experiment, make mistakes, correct mistakes, learn and grow. In 4-H mistakes are not viewed as failure, but as a part of a normal learning process. If a person is performing without mistakes, then it is time to set a new challenge and move on to learn a new skill.

By the time you are reading this welcome to 4-H, you might have already decided to become a 4-H volunteer. We celebrate with each and everyone of you who have chosen the 4-H experience. Of more value than the skills you teach to youth or adults will be the message you convey that they are, first and foremost, persons of value who have much to contribute!

## **Support for Volunteers**

You will receive training and support for whichever volunteer role you choose. You will begin one step at a time, and before you know it you will be running with the 4-H program!

Thank you for being you! Thank you for volunteering to share your uniqueness with New Jersey 4-H youth and other volunteers. 4-H is about people like you working with other adults and youth. 4-H IS EDUCATION FOR LIFE!

**WELCOME TO THE 4-H FAMILY!**

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N.J. AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
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