



## Volunteering: How Can You Help?



Credit: Ben Hoppe

Volunteers are a huge part of the success of 4-H and help make 4-H possible. 4-H volunteers can serve as club leaders, project leaders, chaperones, and other roles. While the experience level of volunteers varies, our volunteers have one thing in common: wanting to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. In addition to making a positive impact with youth, 4-H volunteers gain important life skills of their own and also impact the communities in which they volunteer.

### Becoming a 4-H Volunteer

To ensure volunteers in the 4-H program are prepared and to protect the safety and best interests of 4-H members, all 4-H volunteers who are 18 years of age and older who are no longer members go through a process which includes:

1. Participate in training to help you serve in your role. This training is called Volunteers in Preparation,
2. Have a background check.
3. Agree to conduct yourself in a way that positively represents 4-H.
4. Learn how to keep our youth safe by taking a Mandated Reporter Training.



Credit: Eva Terry

To get started on your volunteer journey, contact your local 4-H educator.

### Wisconsin 4-H Volunteer Roles

There are many ways to volunteer in 4-H. All volunteers work with youth and adult volunteers to offer a positive youth development experience for youth. Wisconsin's 4-H program has six main roles for volunteers.

- Activity/Event Volunteers lead or organize a 4-H activity or event.
- Adult Advisor/Chaperones work with 4-H educators to chaperone a 4-H educational experience.
- Club Enrollment Coordinator leads and supports enrollment in a club or group.
- Club Leader provides leadership for a club or group organization.
- Committee Volunteers help lead or participate as a member of a committee.
- Project Leaders provide leadership and organization to a group learning about a specific topic.

There may be additional trainings to volunteer in some of these roles, for example a WI 4-H Shooting Sports Leader

### Can I help without volunteering?

Not everyone feels ready to become a 4-H volunteer. Check in with your club leader or local 4-H educator to find out other ways you can still make an impact on the program without serving 4-H in an official capacity. This might mean providing no-contact support in a warm welcoming way such as bringing a healthy snack, set up and clean up, etc. Any help you give makes the experience more positive for everyone.





## Helping Hands

The 4-H pledge talks about using your hands for larger service. Not only can you use your hands to help your club through leadership and teaching, but you can use your hands to help your community too! 4-H members are known for helping their community through service. Plan your own community service project by answering the questions below!

### Who needs (or would benefit from) help?

Choose an organization (example: animal shelter or food pantry), group of people (people who are elderly), or a person who you'd like to help (a neighbor).

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### How can I help?

List skills (example: art or building), interests (being outside), or abilities (talking to other people) that you want to use to make a difference.

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### What tasks need to get done?

Match the "how" with the "who"! Write what you need to do to complete your project and the supplies you'll need to accomplish it. (Example: If you are creating cards for people in a senior living facility, you will need to contact the facility, gather writing supplies, create the cards, and deliver the cards.)

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### How did it go?

After you've done your community service project, reflect on how things went and how you might do things differently if you did it again. What went well? What could be better?

Almost every club does a community service project. At your next club meeting, ask a club officer or your club leader what project your club is doing this year!