UW–MADISON EXTENSION

Youth Voice:

Club and Group Leadership

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Having youth leadership and voice in 4-H Clubs and Groups is not something to consider – it is something that is required. But you may wonder what youth leadership and voice really is. The beauty of 4-H is that youth leadership and voice can be many things, and depends greatly on the youth that are part of your club. Below are a few options for your club or group to consider:

Club Elected Youth Officers

Many clubs and groups across the nation treat 4-H clubs and groups as we do with many adult committees and boards – and hold official elections to fill positions. The positions typically include electing youth to the following positions:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

To engage additional young people, different positions can be created for officers, some of which may include:

- Historian/Reporter
- Photographer
- Sergeant at Arms
- Sunshine Chair
- Pledge/Song Leader

Be sure to talk with your local Extension staff for additional guidance on setting up elections and positions, should you chose this route. There are best practices for inclusivity.

Club Decided Youth Advisory Board

Some clubs or groups may not want the official election of officers, and opt for an advisory board. This board works to schedule and run meetings, make decisions and run the club, but the youth may switch between roles to accomplish tasks. Advisory boards can vary in number of positions, but should always have more youth than adults.

Youth Members Leading Club Committees

If your club or group creates committees to complete tasks or implement ideas, be sure youth are involved in leading and guiding. People own what they help create, and 4-H is intended to be youth led, adult supported!

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