Guide to 4-H Volunteer Opportunities

What can I do as a volunteer?

There are many ways adults can support youth learning and leading in 4-H. Whether you are ready to join us for one day or one year, we appreciate and welcome your skills and knowledge. You do not need prior experience in 4-H to volunteer, just a commitment to positive youth development.

Note: Volunteer roles that have an asterisk* next to them require the completion of our volunteer screening process.

Learn more about our volunteer opportunities below. If this is your first experience with 4-H, we recommend starting with a one-time or short-term role.

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Year-round volunteer opportunities

Available year-round to grow and support county and club programs

One time (can be completed at one event or program)

- Adult helper - *View a short video about this role*
- Guest speakers
- Supervising volunteer*
- Workshop instructors - *View a short video about this role*

Short term (can be completed in a 1-3 month commitment)

- Club or project assistant*
- Event coordinator
- Independent mentor*

Long term (requires more than a 3-month commitment with regular events or meetings

- Ambassador advisor*
- Club assistant leader*
- Committee member* (Various areas)
- Project or Activity Leader

Fall List of Opportunities

Beginning September through November

Short term

- Committee member* (Finance)

Long term

- Advisor to treasurer*
- Cloverbud leaders and assistants* - View a short video about this role
- Club Leader* - *View a short video about this role*

- County Extension Committee
- Federation/Council Advisor*

Winter List of Opportunities

Beginning December through February

Short term

- Chaperone* (day or overnight chaperone for Building Leaders & Understanding)
- Project bowl coach* - *View a short video about this role*
- Wildlife Instructor*

Long term

- Committee member* (Livestock/Auction)

Spring List of Opportunities

Beginning March through May

Short term

- Chaperone* (day or overnight for YELLO)
- Committee member* (Food stand)
- Crop Scouting Coach*
- Drill Team Coach*
- Engineering Design Coach*
- Shooting Sports Instructor* - *View a short video about this role*

Long term

- Barn superintendent*
- Shooting Sports coordinator*

Summer List of Opportunities

Beginning June through August

One time

- ATV Safety instructor
- Clinician (Horse & Dog)
- County Fair support (various roles)
- Day Camp instructor

Short term

- Dog trainer*
- Ride night coordinator
- State Fair chaperone*

Interested to help?

Anyone aged 18+ who cares about young people can volunteer. You don't need to be a parent or an expert or have any prior experience with 4-H.

Learn more

Want to learn more about volunteer needs in your area? Contact your local 4-H office.

Show your interest

Interested in volunteering but not ready to apply? Fill out the volunteer interest form by scanning the QR Code

Have more questions?

For general questions, please contact fourh@umn.edu or 612-624-2116.

Volunteer Short Description

Learn more about volunteer roles and if you may be a good fit
***indicates the role requires completion of our screening process**

Year round - One time

Adult helper

What you will do: Provide general assistance at programs and events.
Best fit for: Someone with an interest to help or provide support in a limited capacity
Number of roles available: Varies by program needs
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 1-4 hours depending on the nature of the program and event

Guest Speaker/Presenter

What you will do: Connect with youth as a guest speaker and/or presenter. Share your skills, expertise, and knowledge through activities and/or presentations.
Best fit for: Someone with skills, expertise, and knowledge willing to share.
Number of roles available: Unlimited
Preparation & training: Short orientation and training videos
Commitment: One-time opportunity.

Supervising volunteer*

What you will do: Provides supervision of the 4-H meeting to ensure our Safety of Minors policy is in place, including checking youth in/out monitoring youth interactions.
Best fit for: Someone who wants to support the club but does not have a lot of extra time available.
Number of roles available: 1-4 per club/county program
Preparation & training: 30 minute online learning module.
Commitment: 2 hours/month; must be available to attend most meetings.

Workshop Instructor

What you will do: Create opportunities for members to learn and grow in project areas and encourage reflection on their learning.
Best fit for: Someone interested in providing hands on learning experiences with youth

Number of roles available: Unlimited
Preparation & training: Short orientation and training videos
Commitment: Time varies depending on the workshop/activity.

Year round - Short term

Club Assistant Leader*

What you will do: This volunteer works alongside the organizational leader to ensure the learning and leading outcomes of 4-H and the clubs goals are delivered. Specific tasks may include supporting youth leaders, organizing supplies, setting up the meeting space and/or communicating with families.
Best fit for: Someone who wants to support consistent positive experiences for young people, is flexible and willing to help
Number of roles available: 2-3 per club
Preparation & training: 75 min webinar orientation, club handbook and direct staff support
Commitment: 2-4 hours/month; must be regularly available to attend meetings

Event Coordinator

What you will do: Take the lead in coordinating a special event for the 4-H program such as an award ceremony, fundraiser, or
Best fit for: Someone who enjoys event planning and connecting with people and places in the community
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 4-8 hours per event

Independent mentor*

What you will do: Support an individual or independent member in goal-setting, planning, completing, and reflecting on his or her 4-H experience
Best fit for: Someone who wants to work with youth and guide their learning.
Number of roles available: Varies by county program and independent membership
Preparation & training: Short orientation and training.
Commitment: 1-4 hours/month, if supporting an independent member at least 6 meetings/year

Year round - Long term

Ambassador advisor*

What you will do: Lead educational meetings and events that support youth in gaining leadership skills within a group setting
Best fit for: Someone with a passion for youth leadership and the ability to inspire and motivate youth
Number of roles available: 2-3 per county program
Preparation & training: Varies by county program
Commitment: 2-4 hours/month throughout the year plus time for scheduled events and activities organized by the youth Ambassadors

Committee Member/Advisor*

What you will do: This volunteer guides the learning and development of youth committees within the club or county program. They should support the youth to make their own decisions, and help support their planning and implementation.
Best fit for: Someone who enjoys connecting people together and is a supportive and caring leader
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Short online training around youth/adult partnerships, provided resources and direct staff support
Commitment: 2 hours every 2-3 months; must be available to attend business meetings (4 times a year)

Project/Activity Leader

What you will do: Plan and facilitate project training to mentor youth, foster talent, and cultivate community through group learning.
Best fit for: Someone who is flexible and enjoys collaborating with the Extension Office to access project development resources.
Number of roles available: Unlimited
Preparation & training: Short orientation and training videos
Commitment: Flexible. Varies by role.

Seasonal opportunities (fall, winter, spring) - Short term

Chaperone*

What you will do: Provide supervision as a chaperone at events such as summer camp, the Minnesota State Fair, workshops, and competitions.
Best fit for: Passionate and responsible volunteers.
Number of roles available: Varies depending on program needs
Preparation & training: Orientation, direct staff support, online training video
Commitment: Varies by event.

Crop Scouting Coach*

What you will do: Coach and guide a group of 3-5 youth to participate in the 4-H Crop Scouting Challenge.
Best fit for: Someone with a desire to motivate and teach youth about agriculture.
Number of roles available: 1-2 per county program
Preparation & training: Online webinar, coaches handbook and short online modules around positive youth development
Commitment: 2-4 hours/month from April to July.

Engineering Design Coach*

What you will do: Coach and guide youth to create a machine to participate in the 4-H Engineering Design Challenge (EDC).
Best fit for: Someone with a desire to motivate and support youth in engineering a machine within a team environment.
Number of roles available: 1-2 per county program (if offered locally)
Preparation & training: Online webinar, coaches handbook and short online modules around positive youth development
Commitment: 4-8 hours/month from April to July.

Project Bowl Coach & Assistant Coach*

What you will do: Coach youth and share animal science knowledge through the Project Bowl season.
Best fit for: Someone passionate about growing animal science knowledge.
Number of roles available: 2-4
Preparation & training: 45 minute online training, provided curriculum, and direct staff support.

Commitment: 4-8 hours per month (January-March).

Shooting Sports Instructor*

What you will do: Provides on the line instruction for youth participants in a variety of disciplines and nurtures a sense of belonging, connection and mastery among program members.
Best fit for: Someone who wants to support positive experiences for young people and build shooting sports skills.
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: In-person training, 30 minute online learning module, provided curricula, staff support.
Commitment: 2-8 hours/month depending on the size of the program; must be regularly available to attend meetings.

Wildlife Instructor*

What you will do: Provides learning opportunities around wildlife, outdoor education, and natural environment projects, which are required for youth participating in the MN 4-H State Shoot event.
Best fit for: Someone with a passion to spark learning and leading opportunities in the outdoor and wildlife project.
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: In-person training, 30 minute online learning module, provided curricula, staff support.
Commitment: 2-6 hours/month depending on the size of the program; must be available to attend most meetings.

Seasonal opportunities (fall, winter, spring) - Long term

Adult advisor to the treasurer*

What you will do: This volunteer works alongside the youth treasurer to ensure that the finances of the club are managed effectively according to 4-H policies.
Best fit for: Someone who is detail oriented and can mentor and work alongside a young person in a positive way
Number of roles available: 1 per club/county program
Preparation & training: 30 minute online learning module, direct staff support
Commitment: 2 hours/month

Auction committee:

What you will do: Recruit and support a youth and adult leadership team to organize and implement the 4-H livestock ribbon auction, manage the budget, and assist in conducting the auction at the county fair.
Best fit for: Someone interested in animal agriculture and passionate about organizing and implementing a public event
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Short online training video, Direct staff and volunteer support
Commitment: One program year (October-September); 3-4 hours meetings per year.

Barn Superintendent*

What you will do: Provides support for animal check-in and load-out at the County Fair and serves as a liaison to families with horse and barn management.
Best fit for: Someone who can communicate clearly and respectfully, manage details and provide a welcoming environment for youth, families and fairgoers.
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Direct staff support
Commitment: Varies by county program

Cloverbud Leader*

What you will do: This volunteer ensures the club or county Cloverbud program is a positive environment for all youth and actively works with youth leaders to build components of program quality with a special focus on creating belonging and connection amongst members. Specific tasks may include leading icebreaker activities, games, creating club t-shirts, supporting new members, etc.
Best fit for: Someone who enjoys connecting people together, is a supportive and caring leader, and enjoys working with younger youth.
Number of roles available: 2-3 per club/county program
Preparation & training: Virtual training opportunities, provided resources, and direct staff support
Commitment: 2-4 hours/month; must be available to attend most meetings

Club Leader*

What you will do: This volunteer works alongside 4-H staff to prepare and organize the content of each month's meeting and is a key contact for the club. This individual does

not need to do all the work but should ensure all of the necessary components of the meeting are organized and delivered.
Best fit for: Someone who is willing to learn and grow alongside the youth by providing leadership and club organization
Number of roles available: 1-2 per club
Preparation & training: 75 min webinar orientation, club handbook and direct staff support
Commitment: 4-6 hours/month; must be regularly available to attend meetings

County Extension Committee

What you will do: Engage citizen stakeholders and county commissioners as required by state law, sharing passion, enthusiasm, and dreams for 4-H.
Best fit for: Dedicated stakeholders and citizens who want to support Extension.
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Short interview or orientation
Commitment: 4-6 meetings per year

Federation Council Advisor*

What you will do: The Federation is led by youth officers (President, Secretary, etc.), who turn to their Adult Advisor(s) for assistance with their roles, facilitating Federation meetings, and learning life skills through leadership.
Best fit for: Someone willing and able to mentor and guide youth in gaining new skills
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Short online training around youth/adult partnerships, provided resources and direct staff support
Commitment: 6-10 meetings per year (as arranged by the council)

Shooting Sports & Wildlife Coordinator*

What you will do: Works alongside 4-H staff to build and maintain a sustainable shooting sports program in partnership with youth, parents, community partners, and 4-H staff.
Best fit for: Someone who wants to grow in their planning, organizing, delegating and leadership skills.
Number of roles available: 1-2 per county program
Preparation & training: In-person training and direct staff support.
Commitment: 2 hours per month in off-season (Oct-March) and 4-8 hours/month in season (April-September).

Seasonal opportunities - Horse Project

Clinician

What you will do: Provide training and education to youth around horse care and effective riding techniques.
Best fit for: Someone who has experience working with horses who has an interest in sharing knowledge with young people.
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Short orientation video
Commitment: approximately 4 hours.

Drill Team Coach*

What you will do: Guides youth through designing and implementing a drill team performance.
Best fit for: Someone who can plan, organize and motivate young people and who has experience working with horses.
Number of roles available: 2 per county team
Preparation & training: Webinar
Commitment: Weekly practices during the program season (typically May-August).

Ride Night Coordinator*

What you will do: Provide leadership and management at county horse project ride nights.
Best fit for: Someone who is organized and can create a safe, positive and welcoming environment with youth and their horses.
Number of roles available: Generally 1 per county program
Preparation & training: Short online training videos, direct staff support
Commitment: 2-4 hours (May to August) depending on the nature and size of the program.

Seasonal opportunities - Dog Project

Dog trainer (agility, rally, obedience or showmanship)*

What you will do: Provide a positive youth development environment and lead 4-H members in dog training sessions.

Best fit for: Someone who is professional and supportive of youth members and is trained to work with dogs from a variety of backgrounds.
Number of roles available: 1-4 depending on program needs
Preparation & training: In person training/certification
Commitment: Weekly practices (typically April-July) with time available to support families during the qualifying County Dog Show.

Seasonal opportunities - Performing Arts

Arts-In Director*

What you will do: Support experiences that promote positive youth development for all members by directing youth in performing arts programming.
Best fit for: Someone who has the ability to organize and motivate youth, communicate effectively and has basic education/experience in theater production.
Number of roles available: Generally 1 per county program
Preparation & training: Short online training videos
Commitment: Varies by county.

Arts-In Technical Assistant

What you will do: Support experiences that promote positive youth development by assisting youth in performing arts stage, set and costume development.
Best fit for: Someone who can work positively with youth and who has prior experience with set design, sound board, costume design and construction.
Number of roles available: 1-2 per county program
Preparation & training: Short online training videos
Commitment: Varies by county.

Arts-In Music Assistant

What you will do: Support experiences that promote positive youth development for all members by assisting youth in music composition and sound board operation.
Best fit for: Someone who can work positively with youth and who has prior experience with instrumental music, composition and directing.
Number of roles available: 1-2 per county program
Preparation & training: Short online training videos
Commitment: Varies by county.

Summer Opportunities

ATV Safety Instructor*

What you will do: Lead instruction for the 4-H ATV Safety program
Best fit for: Someone with a passion to teach youth ATV safety and is comfortable with working in an outdoor environment
Number of roles available: Varies by local need
Preparation & training: Minnesota DNR ATV instructor or ATV Safety Instructor (ASI) course and 4-H orientation
Commitment: 2-8 hours/month generally during the summer

Day Camp Instructor

What you will do: Lead a session or activity as part of a local day camp program
Best fit for: Someone with a passion to work with kids in a camp setting
Number of roles available: Varies by local need
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 2-6 hours

Exhibit Building Supervisor*

What you will do: Provides supervision and support of 4-H youth and projects in the 4-H building while engaging in outreach with the general public.
Best fit for: Someone who is organized and enjoys interacting with the public.
Number of roles available: Varies by county.
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 4-8 hour shifts during each day of the County Fair.

Judging Assistant

What you will do: Helps during project judging by arranging exhibits, organizing ribbons, and assisting the judge with the exhibit evaluation process.
Best fit for: Someone with physical stamina and an interest to create a decorative display.
Number of roles available: Varies depending on county program
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 4-8 hour shifts on project judging day.

Show Announcer

What you will do: Provides professional and respectful communication to inform the public during the designated livestock show.
Best fit for: Someone comfortable with public speaking and who has knowledge of the livestock show experience.
Number of roles available: Varies by county
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 4-8 hours (depending on length of show).

Show Clerk

What you will do: Records results at Livestock shows and assists the announcer and/or ring stewards.
Best fit for: Someone with attention to detail and an interest in supporting the County Fair show.
Number of roles available: Varies depending on county program
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 4-8 hours (depending on length of show).

Show Photographer

What you will do: Captures positive and professional photos of 4-H members, animals and exhibits at the County Fair.
Best fit for: Someone who connects well with others and has advanced photography skills.
Number of roles available: 1-2 per county program
Preparation & training: Short orientation video
Commitment: Varies.

Show Ringman (Ring Steward)

What you will do: Provides guidance, support and direction to ensure youth and animals are organized and safe during livestock shows.
Best fit for: Someone who is comfortable working with a variety of animals and who can work positively and respectfully with youth members.
Number of roles available: Varies by county program
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 4-8 hours (depending on length of show).

Show Staging

What you will do: Works with the show livestock team to ensure youth and animals are lined up and ready to enter the ring.
Best fit for: Someone who can work positively and respectfully with youth and parents.
Number of roles available: 1-2 per county show
Preparation & training: Short orientation
Commitment: 4-8 hours (depending on length of show)