

The Role of Parents and Family in 4-H

While 4-H is primarily considered a youth program, the support of the family is essential for a successful experience. Parents or guardians and family members are always invited and encouraged to participate in the 4-H club meetings and activities. 4-H is unique among youth activities because it allows children and parents to work side-by-side, having fun, learning together, while developing new talents and skills.

As a 4-H parent or Guardian, here are some of your main responsibilities:

- Learn what 4-H is about and what is required of 4-H members.
- Get to know your child's 4-H advisors (leaders) and the Extension Office Staff.
- Help your child select projects they will enjoy and are capable of doing.
- Provide transportation to 4-H club meetings and events.
- Attend meeting with your child whenever possible, keeping in mind that 4-H members should be allowed to conduct the meetings while the adults listen respectfully.
- Visit our website at erie.osu.edu. This site is updated with the most current information pertaining to Erie County 4-H. The website is where you will find your child's fact sheets for the projects in which he/she has enrolled. Fact sheets are the guidelines and rules for a particular project area.
- Stay informed by reading all 4-H information sent to your family, such as the county newsletter, *The 4-H Buzz* which is emailed to you and available on the website: erie.osu.edu. Keep track of important dates and deadlines as listed in the 4-H Calendar.
- Guide your child in completing 4-H projects. Book work can be hard for younger members. Allow him or her to do the work while you provide guidance.
- Help your child keep records of his or her 4-H activities and accomplishments.
- Consider volunteering. If your club needs help, talk to the advisors about becoming a 4-H volunteer.
- Maintain good communication with 4-H advisors. If your child misses a meeting, call, text or e-mail to see what he or she missed. Let advisors know ahead of time when you have planned absences.
- Ask questions. If you don't understand, your 4-H advisor or the county Extension staff would be happy to help you.

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