

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY 4-H CLUB?

The purpose of the community 4-H club is to promote the development of technical and life skills. The key elements of the club include:

- Volunteer Leaders.
- A year round program.
- Multiple project involvement. Elected club officers.
- Community involvement.
- Parental involvement and support.

Parental involvement is essential to a successful 4-H club and 4-H experience. 4-H is designed to be a family activity.

Members need adult support and guidance as they team and gain leadership skills through their club. The role as the volunteer and parent is to stay just out of the way, offering leadership, support and guidance when needed.

A club functions with a group of officers selected by a vote of all members. Meetings are planned by officers with the assistance of adult and teen leaders and with the input from other club members. Programs or educational experiences are incorporated into meetings to help members learn more about subjects of general club interest.

4-H practices a "child centered" approach to projects and meetings. This means 4-H members are allowed to make as many decisions and actions as possible.

The community club will only be a starting point for a specific project. Members of a club with similar interests should form special project clubs within their community club. The club is lead by a project leader who is an adult volunteer or an experienced teen leader. The club meets 6-10 times a year. The project meeting provides a learn-by-doing situation, teaching skills of doing, thinking, and feeling. A particular project is explored and knowledge base broadened.

Source: Doing 4-H: at the Community Club Level, Oklahoma State University, 1988.