

UDC 4-H



PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU!

## Involving Parents in 4-H

Parent interest and cooperation is needed for their child to succeed



This document is appropriate for use with 4th to 6th grades and teen clubs.

Parents are invited and encouraged to become involved in 4-H by supporting their child and helping the 4-H club. Extension agents and 4-H leaders should involve parents in 4-H for several important reasons.

### Why Involve Parents

- Parent interest and cooperation is necessary for proper emotional development of the child.
- 4-H provides an atmosphere in which parents can show love and concern for meeting his/her goals.
- If the parents are enthusiastic and willing to help in any way they can, it creates the same attitude in the club members.
- Parent interest and cooperation are important in developing community interest in and support for the 4-H club and its activities.

### What Parents Want to Know About 4-H

1. **They want to know what their child will gain from participating in 4-H.** What are the objectives of 4-H and how does the club operate?
2. **They want to know what is expected of their children as a 4-H club member.** Will it interfere with school work?
3. **They want to know what is expected of them as parents.** What and how are they expected to provide cooperation and support?
4. **Parents like to feel that they are needed** and they have an important

role to play as parents of a 4-H member.

### Tips on Building Better Parent Cooperation

#### 1. Ask Parents

- For their consent when their child first joins the club
- To come together occasionally to discuss the club's programs
- To attend meetings of the club whenever possible
- To help with parts of the club program in which they may be interested or have special ability
- To attend club, district or regional 4-H activities
- To complete the Parent Inventory Card

#### 2. Inform Parents

- By making them aware of the objectives of 4-H and how 4-H can benefit their child
- By making them aware of what materials or assistance their child will require to complete the project
- By making them aware of what might be expected of them by way of duties and responsibilities
- By holding regular meetings in parent homes

**For more information please contact:**  
**UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
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