

# RESPONSIBILITY OF A 4-H PARENT

## GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

The parent/caring adult of a 4-H member plays a major role in the support network of the Kenton County 4-H Youth Development Program. Parental support is especially important in the development of the member through participation in 4-H activities. If parents/caring adults are involved right from the beginning, chances are higher for a successful 4-H experience. By involving yourself in your child's activities, you create a sense of belonging for your 4-H'er.

## SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Show interest in what your children are doing and give them encouragement.
- Provide materials and equipment your children may need.
- Aid community club leaders and project leaders as appropriate.
- Support your 4-H leaders. Get to know them, and let them know you appreciate their efforts.
- Encourage your children to complete their projects. Let your children do their own work; work side by side with your child; don't do their projects for them. Let them experience success and set backs.
- Make 4-H a family affair. Get the entire family involved in 4-H events—either as spectators, participants, or volunteers.
- Remember the objective of 4-H is to build youth into responsible citizens. The way they do their work—complete projects, conduct meetings, and participate in competitive events, etc., will help set work and character patterns for the rest of their lives.
- Encourage your children not to over commit themselves to too many activities. Over commitment often leads to frustration.
- Read all 4-H mailings.
- Become aware of opportunities through 4-H that may effect not only your child but also others in your community as well.
- Be 4-H's best advertisement by knowing about the program.
- Be a positive role model in all areas especially sportsmanship and ethics.
- Provide transportation for your children or arrange for transportation.
- Assist in strengthening the educational quality of the 4-H Youth Development Programs.
- Promote the basic 4-H Philosophy that our product is youth and our projects are the means.
- Follow specific requirements that a club, organization or county group may require.
- Be familiar with the 4-H members' responsibilities.
- Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service and 4-H program.

## SALARY:

Unsalariated; Volunteer.

# **MENTOR/SUPERVISING PROFESSIONAL:**

**County Extension Agent for 4-H/Youth Development**

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**Signature of Volunteer**

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**Date**

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**Signature of Extension Professional**

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**Date**

Adapted by Mark Mains, Kenton County Extension Agent for 4-H/Youth Development, from materials by Janelle Stewart, 4-H Youth Agent, Lenawee County, Michigan.