

LETTERS TO NEW LEADERS



Letter 7: Opportunities for 4-H Leaders

In this letter you will find:

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Dear Leader,

As you feel comfortable with one aspect of the program, you'll want to challenge yourself to take on new leadership experiences. You have probably discovered that along with your members, you too are gaining new knowledge.

There are many opportunities available for 4-H leaders to learn more about the total 4-H program, make new friends, and develop additional skills. Your county 4-H

newsletter will announce and describe these activities as they occur.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Junior Leaders- A possible source of leadership to help with your event, may be a junior leader. This leadership project is for 4-H members in grades 7 through 9. There may be an older 4-H member in your community who would welcome the opportunity to be a junior leader. A junior leader, experienced in the same project area, could be a valuable asset in acquainting you with the total 4-H program and could provide excellent assistance in teaching your project members.



A junior leader works with the adult leader to plan the project program, helps the younger members, and is available to provide assistance to the leader, in the agreed-upon areas.

Teen Leaders- Another youth program in 4-H is teen leadership. A teen leader is a senior 4-H member (grades 10 through 12) who has primary responsibility for 4-H project or aspect of a club with an adult leader as an advisor. The adult leader attends meetings in an advisory capacity. Sometimes it works very well for a club with a wide range of ages and skill levels to have an experienced older member become a teen leader with the younger members, or the teen leader can take on a specific activity area of a large club.

OPPORTUNITIES AT THE COUNTY LEVEL

County 4-H Activities- Consider becoming a member of a planning committee or a volunteer organizer of one of many county 4-H activities, such as 4-H Council event committees, judge's clerk, contest coordinator, fundraising committee, workshop director, or summer camp staff. 4-H leaders are the key to a successful program. Leaders who take an active part in county 4-H activities not only help the program be successful, but find they become more effective leaders while developing their own skills.

County 4-H Leaders

Council- Counties have an organized group of leaders who meet on a regular basis to discuss the county 4-H program, review 4-H activities, conduct 4-H program fundraising, and provide program advice to the county 4-H staff. This group is also called the, "County 4-H Leaders Council."



To find out more about all aspects of the total 4-H program, attend your County Council meetings. Talk with your county University of California Cooperative Extension staff about this opportunity.

OPPORTUNITIES AT THE STATE LEVEL

California 4-H Leaders Forum- There are many statewide 4-H activities in which volunteer leaders may become involved. One of those is the State 4-H Leaders Forum. This is an educational activity held every year for adult leaders. There are many workshops that focus on specific 4-H project areas and general skill development.

State Development Committees- The state 4-H staff works through development committees in most project areas. These advisory committees assist the staff with the project curriculum development and activity

planning. The membership on these committees is composed of county Extension advisors, volunteer leaders, and older 4-H members. After you have been a leader long enough to become familiar with the program, you may be interested in serving on one of these committees. Talk with your county advisor about the nomination process.

Sectional and State 4-H Leaders Councils- These groups meet during the year to give advice to the state 4-H staff on policy issues, review recommendations made by state development committees, and provide guidance for program direction. Each county is represented on the Sectional 4-H Leaders Council by volunteer 4-H leaders from that county, and each Sectional Leaders Council has representatives that form the State 4-H Leaders Council. These representatives report to your 4-H County Leaders Council and staff after each meeting.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Western Regional 4-H Leaders Forum- Every year a Western Regional 4-H Leaders Forum is held in one of the 14 western states in our region, usually in February or March. The program features 3 days of informative seminars and meetings, tours and meals, and an opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with other 4-H leaders from all over the west.

Scholarship Assistance- Some counties have limited scholarship assistance available for leaders who apply for state, regional, or national workshops. Information is available at your county Extension office.

National 4-H Center- The National 4-H Center near Washington D.C. is available for 4-H leaders to stay with their families while visiting the nation's capitol. Reservations must be made in advance.

OTHER RESOURCES FOR 4-H LEADERS

As you can tell from these letters, the best resource persons for a new leader are your county's 4-H staff and other volunteer leaders. Don't hesitate to contact them for ideas, information and assistance.

Resource Leaders- Many project areas in the county have experienced project leaders who serve as "resource leaders" for the county. These leaders are available to provide you with advice and assistance to better led your project group.

Audio-Visual Library- Your county office of the University of California Cooperative Extension has a library of audio-visual aids that you can borrow These include slide sets with tapes, teaching kits, and videotapes on different project areas, general leadership and citizenship.

Publications- In addition to the publications already listed in these letters, there are many resource publications at your county 4-H office. Also available are 4-H county subject matter publications available through the State 4-H Publication Catalog and the National 4-H Supply Catalog. These catalogs are available at the 4-H office.

THANKS FOR VOLUNTEERING!

We hope that the information in these letters has been helpful to you. We know it is a challenge to be a 4-H leader, and we also know it can be one of the most rewarding experiences you will have- helping young people develop into successful, caring, and productive citizens.



Reference Materials

California 4-H Publication Catalog
Fresno County 4-H Publication Catalog
National 4-H Supply Catalog

HOW CAN I USE THE INFORMATION IN THIS LETTER:

1. New activities to plan into our club program:

2. Other people who could help us and how they might help.

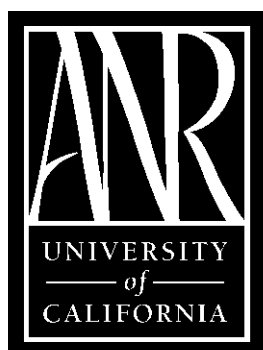
3. Questions to ask 4-H staff and other leaders.

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Letter 7: Opportunities for 4-H Leaders

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