

*Your county  
extension office*



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## **Inclusive Club Resource Packet Distributed to Fond du Lac County 4-H Clubs**

In mid-March, 4-H general leaders in Fond du Lac County received the Inclusive Club Resource Packet. This packet, created by the UW-Extension Fond du Lac County VISTA, is the result of a survey that was conducted with general leaders and new families from 4-H clubs across the county. The purpose of the survey was to assess what clubs in the county were doing to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all members and families, and what clubs might need to improve upon in this area. The Inclusive Club Resource Packet is a compilation of resources for clubs to use in promoting and maintaining safe, welcoming and inclusive clubs. Suggestions were addressed, and some of the included resources came directly from ideas that general leaders and new families reported as successful. The packet has ideas for ice breakers, educational speakers, tips for being a proactive general leader, and more. The goal is to provide resources to leaders and clubs so that they can support all members and families in creating a positive Fond du Lac County 4-H experience.

## **4-H Club Leadership is Evolving into a Shared Leadership Model**

Volunteer leaders of 4-H clubs have a vast array of responsibilities to oversee, such as....

- Member enrollments and project selection
- Annual financial audit
- Yearly club plan
- Annual charter renewal
- Election of club officers and execution of their responsibilities
- Help members learn and use parliamentary procedure
- Review and update club bylaws
- Recruit adult and youth volunteers
- Community service projects
- Coordinate record books
- County fair participation
- Member recruitment
- Fundraising
- Continually evaluate and update their programs
- New member orientation

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## **WNEP Gears Up for Summer Programming**

With warmer weather and spring on the way, WNEP (Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program) is adding new programs.

- The Junior Master Gardener Program is beginning. Youth ages 8-14 will plant and care for a garden as well as learn the importance of eating vegetables. Weekly sessions include making a food using one or more different kinds of vegetables.
- WNEP staff will be at Salvation Army again this summer promoting fresh fruit and vegetable consumption.
- The Boys and Girls Club will be coming to UW-Extension this summer to learn about summer food safety and to make some foods.
- We will continue to teach classes at Job Center on shopping strategies and stretching your food dollars.

#### **4-H Club Leadership is Evolving into a Shared Leadership Model - continued**

- Inform members, leaders, and parents of county programs, events and activities
- Attend volunteer training sessions and 4-H Leader Association meetings
- Recognition of people who have contributed to the club's success
- Support youth and adult partnerships
- Marketing their club

Because the role of the 4-H club leader requires a variety of skill sets and is time intensive, we are working with clubs to incorporate a shared leadership model where a team of 3 to 5 volunteers work together. People take on roles that best fit their interests and time available. This divides the workload, reduces stress, incorporates new perspectives, capitalizes on a person's passion, and increases a sense of ownership. To make this model work effectively, a clear, open and continual communication process is needed among the leadership team. 4-H members benefit through having greater support, new role models to learn from, and greater options in programming.