



## Introduction to 4-H Core Competencies

It is recognized that an effective 4-H program requires committed parents, dedicated volunteers and Extension staff that work together for the common good of young people.

In order for each of these groups to contribute their part, they need to have basic core knowledge about the 4-H program.

4-H Core Competencies are recognized as the minimal knowledge that 4-H volunteers need to effectively carry out assigned roles and responsibilities in planning, conducting, and evaluating an individual, local and/or county program. The competencies are basic knowledge and skills, which provide an understanding of 4-H, and assist in creating a strong foundation for 4-H programming.

This guide is a tool to be used by the County Extension Agent in delivering and reinforcing identified basic core knowledge. The information is to be blended into existing county programming and training using a variety of delivery methods over an extended period of time.

The successful measurement of an individual's level of competency will require the Extension Agent or 4-H Program Associate to present the information on more than one occasion, and by more than one means of delivery. Methods for delivering core competencies may include one or more of the following:

- Volunteer Training (L, C, A, D, S)
- Newsletters
- Displays
- Web page
- Correspondence

Fundamental 4-H Core Competencies have been organized under three headings.

**"This is 4-H."** – Understanding who and what 4-H is, why 4-H project work is done, how local clubs operate, county organizational structure, and the roles and responsibilities of those in leadership positions.

**"Getting the Most Out of the 4-H Experience."** – How to develop 4-H projects, identify and use resources, the purpose for activities and events, the 4-H Recognition Model, and the 4-H Life Skills Model.

**"Being a 4-H Volunteer."** – Ages and Stages, Experiential Learning, Teaching Methods, Diversity, Character Education, and receiving a Volunteer Certificate of Training.