

Yes, you CAN be a Project Leader

What is a Project Leader? They are an adult volunteer who goes through a volunteer screening and presents learning opportunities to the 4-Hers who are interested in a particular project area. What a project leader teaches usually relates to their own interests and skills

Often, one project easily co-teaches with another project which leads to a higher quality learning experience. For example, a nature walk involving Photography. While learning about cameras, the kids can also learn about nature and birds. The kids can then present those projects at the fair to show what they have learned that year. It is a great way to engage in your hobbies and share them with the next generation.

If this sounds like something you would enjoy, read on!

Qualifications:

- Can you pass a volunteer screening? Volunteer screening is mandatory for 4-H Volunteers and adult leadership. It requires an online application, online orientation module, and a background check.
- Can you talk in front of kids ranging in age from 7 to 18?
- Can you manage kids ranging in age from 7 to 18?
- Can you be welcoming and equitable to all kids interested in your chosen project area?

Misconceptions:

There can be only one.	No, you can share project leadership with another adult in your club, as long as they pass Volunteer Screening. Again, volunteer screening is mandatory for 4-H adult volunteers and leadership. Teamwork is essential for co-leaders.
It's going to be a nightmare of responsibility.	Not true. You can take it at your own pace. Meetings can be held after club meetings with prior arrangement. You can have meetings at your own home if you have the desire and the space to host. You can ask parents to stay on site. You can take curriculum from the 4-H website. PDFs are free.
I can't teach anyone anything.	The good news is, 4-H is self driven learning. You could simply spark a discussion among your project participants and give them an open ended task. They'll teach themselves by doing. If you can read, you can conduct a 4-H curriculum session. Also, if you just want to try that new craft/recipe/life hack you saw on Pinterest, they'll love discovering it with you.
I have to have meetings.	Yes, but only 2 to make the club seal requirements, and you can be creative with how those happen. Online videos, Facebook live, zoom meetings, all qualify as your seal requirements. Some project leaders prefer to send out monthly news letters, or call their project members to see if they are meeting deadlines. There is a lot of flexibility and room for creativity here.

Curriculum sources:

You can always come up with your own thing to teach, but if you are a person who wants or needs a little more guidance, have a quick look at the following sites:

- <https://www.maraisdescygnnes.k-state.edu/4-h/project-information/index.html> - You can find a lot of 4-H curriculum for free at this address.
- <https://4-h.org/about/4-h-at-home/#!menu> - 4-H.org is a great place to find free and affordable curriculum to guide you.
- <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/Default.aspx> - a multitude of free PDF's. Charge apply if you want to order printed copies.

Getting started

Step 1: If you were playing a board game and the question was, "What are you nerdy for," what would be your answer? That is the thing you should be a project leader for. Finding your own spark and sharing it makes the whole process fun for everyone.

Step 2: Get your volunteer screening done. For real. Don't skip this.

Step 3: Notify your club leader and/or the extension office of your intent. They will inform you of any training requirements. Shooting Sports, for example, requires safety training. 4-H encourages hands on learning, but we take safety very seriously.

Step 4: Choose an activity to work on with your group. Start easy and get to know the kids who are involved in this project area. You can slowly build up to more complicated things.

Step 5: Encourage your 4-H project group to learn, discuss, and make their best better. Self evaluate and reflect on the experience so you can also make your best better for next time.

Remember: For your club to be eligible for a seal, you will need to have no less than two project meetings. Contact Karla at the Paola Extension office to see if your planned meeting style is within Club Seal Requirements. (913)294-4306 khightow@ksu.edu

Planning Worksheet

Type of Learning: Meeting Newsletter Online Video Meeting Talk or Recreation
Zoom Meeting Other

Intended Duration: _____ **A few good dates:** _____

Where: _____ **Parents staying?** **Yes** **No** **Optional**

Subject: _____ **Objective:** For the 4-Hers to learn how to _____

Materials Needed: _____

Evaluation: (How the kids will show their learning)

finished product trivia game group discussion

Kids should bring: _____ Other

Break it down by time.

Intro: _____ mins Discussion: _____ mins

Instruction: _____ mins Questions: _____ mins

Notes:

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