

## 4-H Volunteer Leaders' Series

# The 4-H Mission in Arkansas

Brian Helms  
Instructor -  
4-H Youth Development

### Goal of 4-H

The goal of 4-H is to meet the basic needs of youth and help them acquire essential life skills through planned "learn by doing" experiences. A necessary outcome of the youth development goal is the development of volunteers as individuals and leaders in the 4-H program.

### 4-H Is . . .

4-H is one of the educational programs of the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service involving youth and adults. It is a family-community effort supplementing and complementing the mission of the home, church and school for the development of youth. 4-H is:

- An informal educational program.
- Community based and locally determined.
- Primarily group focused and family oriented.
- Volunteer operated.
- Coordinated by professional Extension faculty.

### 4-H Methods

4-H uses knowledge as a means to help individuals meet basic developmental needs and acquire essential life skills.

- 4-H emphasizes subject matter-related projects and activities using Extension and land-grant university resources.

- 4-H structures the learning environment using knowledge from the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities to promote the acquisition of life skills.
- The mix of subject matter and educational methods in a democratic environment provides for the personal development process.

### 4-H Management

4-H is operated by volunteers under the supervision of professional Extension agents.

- Some volunteers use subject matter as a means of interacting with youth and adults in 4-H.
- Other volunteers structure groups and learning experiences for youth using the social and behavioral sciences.
- And, other volunteers render services to youth and adults in support of the 4-H program.
- Professional Extension agents teach volunteers to use subject matter, educational methods and the democratic process to achieve human development objectives.

### 4-H Support

4-H is publicly supported by county, state and federal governments. Private resources, both human and material, are used to enrich the learning experience of youth and adults.



---

**BRIAN HELMS** is an instructor - 4-H youth development with the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture and is located in Little Rock.

The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

4HCC1-PD-4-2014RV