



4-H SET Core Competencies

The 4-H SET core competencies identify how 4-H youth development workers can be competent and caring resources to youth, organizations and communities. 4-H youth development professionals and volunteers implement 4-H SET programs that offer the following eight essential elements.



CARING ADULT

UNDERSTANDS THAT EACH YOUNG PERSON BENEFITS FROM A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH A CARING ADULT BY:

- 1** Communicating the capacity of all youth to learn and experience success.
- 2** Willing to learn alongside youth.
- 3** Being comfortable not having all the answers.
- 4** Demonstrating support for all youth, regardless of their challenges.
- 5** Understanding and caring about youth and their families.
- 6** Appreciating the context in which youth and families live.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

CREATES AN EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT BY:

- 1** Modeling strategies for conflict resolution.
- 2** Encouraging youth to share new ideas and different perspectives.
- 3** Modeling and facilitating how to give and receive constructive criticism.

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INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT (BELONGING)

DESIGNS INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS BY:

- 1 Promoting teamwork and cooperation.
- 2 Providing opportunities for youth to teach and learn from each other.
- 3 Demonstrating respect for others.
- 4 Fostering an environment of mutual respect for others.

SEE ONESELF IN THE FUTURE (SENSE OF HOPE)

NURTURES AN ATMOSPHERE OF OPTIMISM AND A POSITIVE BELIEF IN THE FUTURE BY:

- 1 Encouraging the belief that all youth can learn science or pursue science careers.
- 2 Creating a science-friendly learning environment.
- 3 Promoting science careers for all youth, regardless of their gender, race or ethnicity.
- 4 Demonstrating how science can improve the world.

VALUES AND PRACTICES SERVICE TO OTHERS

ENCOURAGES AN ETHIC OF CARING AND CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY BY:

- 1 Helping youth connect to the community through service projects.
- 2 Encouraging empathy for others and responsibility to the community.
- 3 Engaging youth in real world science activities that consider the needs of others.
- 4 Understanding the positive and negative effects that science has on the humans.



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OPPORTUNITIES FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

ENCOURAGES AND SUPPORTS INDEPENDENCE IN YOUTH BY:

- 1 Helping youth set their own goals.
- 2 Encouraging youth to make their own decisions.
- 3 Describing pathways to engage in science careers.
- 4 Communicating the value of science for all.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MASTERY

PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO DEVELOP SKILLS, COMPETENCE AND EXPERTISE BY:

- 1 Designing experiential, inquiry-based opportunities for youth to learn SET skills.
- 2 Challenging youth to explore new or different SET projects and areas of learning.
- 3 Supporting youth in achieving their goals in the face of setbacks.
- 4 Knowing how to foster an increasing development of skills in youth.

ENGAGEMENT IN LEARNING

ENCOURAGES YOUTH TO DIRECT AND MANAGE THEIR OWN LEARNING BY:

- 1 Assisting youth in setting realistic goals of their own choice.
- 2 Encouraging an inquiry approach to learning and exploration.
- 3 Providing sufficient time and an appropriate environment for thorough learning.

