



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title: 4-H Independent Member Adult Mentor

Time Required: One 4-H year

Purpose:

- Mentor, coach and guide 4-H independent member in the completion of their 4-H Independent Member Agreement.
- Promote positive youth development experiences.
- Inform and encourage member and parents/guardians to actively participate in appropriate 4-H opportunities.

Responsibilities:

- Complete Maryland Cooperative Extension volunteer application, screening, training and appointment process.
- Commit to young people and their growth in all areas, being sensitive to their individual abilities and needs.
- Advise independent member regarding their contributions to, and participation in, 4-H events/activities.
- Welcome parent ideas, activity and project assistance, cooperation, support, and attendance at 4-H activities.
- Communicate what the 4-H member can expect from you, as a mentor.
- Support the 4-H member in taking an active role in the learning process, being available to coach as needed.
- Meet with the 4-H member at least six times a year face-to-face.
- Answer/research questions from the member related to 4-H Youth Development.
- Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of the University of Maryland Extension, the Maryland 4-H Program and the local 4-H program.
- Participate in volunteer development opportunities and training to stay current with information, learn new skills and maintain high 4-H standards of quality experiences for youth.

Qualifications:

- Enjoy working with young people.
- The ability to guide, coach and motivate while nurturing positive youth development, decision making, responsibility, and leadership in youth.
- A sincere interest in mentoring and sharing knowledge and skills with youth in an educational setting.
- The ability to effectively support the member in taking responsibility for their independent status and for their learning progress.
- Be sensitive to risks and use risk management strategies related to working with youth.
- Be geographically accessible to the youth.
- The ability to work and communicate effectively in both verbal and written form.
- A willingness to become familiar with, support and work within the philosophy and guidelines of the University of Maryland Extension, Maryland 4-H Program, and the local 4-H program.

Resources Available:

The University of Maryland Extension 4-H Program agrees to:

- Provide training opportunities (local and/or area);
- Provide appropriate curriculum, newsletters, and other resource materials;
- Provide the screening required for volunteers;
- Exchange ideas to help improve the 4-H program;
- Provide appropriate recognition and awards to leaders.

Contact:

4-H Extension Educator
City/County Extension Office
Address
Phone
Fax
Email

Adapted from: University of Minnesota 4-H Independent Member Adult Mentor Position Description