

4-H Volunteer Opportunities in Mecklenburg County



MECKLENBURG COUNTY CENTER

Volunteering with 4-H is a great way to support our youth to learn life skills, make friends, learn by doing, engage in hands-on and interest based projects, access educational curriculum, give back to the community, create positive connections with others, gain leadership skills and experience, build self-confidence, and participate in 4-H activities on the local, statewide, and national level.

Our team can help you build your own club in a variety of interest areas, connect you with one that already exists, or you can volunteer in 4-H events not specific to a club. Your support in volunteering with 4-H can provide lasting impact in a young person's life.

Here are some of the possible roles as an adult volunteer in Mecklenburg County:

4-H Youth Development Volunteer Positions:

- **4-H Club Leader:** An individual who serves as the primary leader for the club, group, or unit. Leaders will determine the focus of the 4-H club, develop the club activities calendar with youth, attend 4-H meetings as the club advisor, communicate with Extension Agent and Extension staff, recruit 4-H club members, design and/or schedule educational activities for club meetings, advise club members and on opportunities available to showcase their projects, accompany youth to local, state, and national events when necessary, create a safe environment for members, and support youth to conduct meaningful, educational experiences in the context of the 4-H club.
- **4-H Club Co-Leader:** An individual who provides leadership or assistance with an activity or variety of activities in the club/group/unit program but is not the primary lead. This individual may also attend 4-H meetings as a club advisor, communicate with Extension Agent and Extension staff, recruit 4-H club members, design and/or schedule educational activities for club meetings, accompany youth to local, state, and national events when necessary, create a safe environment for members, and support youth to conduct meaningful, educational experiences in the context of the 4-H club.

- **Shooting Sports Club Leader:** An individual who serves as the primary leader for a 4-H shooting sports club under the guidance of 4-H Extension Staff. This volunteer must be trained and certified through the NC 4-H Shooting Sports program. This leader is responsible for the overall teaching of knowledge and skills related to a specific discipline (archery) to 4-H members, coordinate activities with shooting sports coordinator and 4-H Agents, coach members on proper techniques and safety, attend all shooting sports club meetings and activities, recruit parents and members, participate in all additional training programs the local shooting sports committee decides to include, help plan the club's yearly program, complete equipment check-list at the beginning and end of each activity, secure a safe location for club activities, and ensure that all activities follow the National 4-H Shooting Sports Curriculum.
- **Shooting Sports Club Co-Leader:** An individual who provides leadership or assistance with 4-H shooting sports in the club/group/program, but is not the primary lead. If the co-leader has not been trained by NC 4-H Shooting Sports they must always volunteer under supervision and guidance of an individual who has been trained by NC 4-H Shooting Sports.
- **Episodic or As Needed Volunteer** - Individuals who assist the 4-H program as needed. This is more infrequent and a lesser commitment than being involved as a club leader or co-leaders. Often, 4-H volunteers are needed for one time events such as serving as a competition judge, assisting with the embryology program, or speaking to a 4-H club. These volunteers may also substitute for 4-H club leaders/co-leaders in their absence if they are a Level 1 certified volunteer in 4-H Online.
- **Serve on the 4-H Advisory Council Committee:** This role is intended for individuals who are citizens of Mecklenburg County, aware of the needs of youth in this county, have been involved in Mecklenburg County 4-H in some capacity, and are interested in supporting 4-H and youth. In this role you will help determine the needs/priorities of 4-H programming in Mecklenburg County, provide feedback to 4-H Staff during advisory council meetings, and support 4-H through volunteer opportunities as they arise. Advisory Council members are expected to attend the 4-H advisory council meetings which last about one hour and occur once a quarter (4 times per year).

If you are interested in volunteering in any of these roles, please email the 4-H Staff at: ibbarco@ncsu.edu. Share your volunteer interests and qualifications. **For episodic volunteers, volunteer opportunities will be emailed through the mailing list, and shared on the county extension website and social media as they become available.*

The first step in becoming a volunteer is to register in 4-H Online as an adult volunteer. Follow the directions at this link: <https://mecklenburg.ces.ncsu.edu/4-honline-digital-4-h-enrollment/>

North Carolina 4-H has two types of Certified Volunteers. Please review the information below before creating your 4-H Online Account: ** We suggest all volunteers apply as a Level 1 volunteer**

#1: CERTIFIED LEVEL 1 VOLUNTEERS: All 4-H volunteers who work directly with youth in any unsupervised capacity during a program/activity/event. **Level 1 volunteers are required to have a background screening** done once every three years. NC State University manages the background screening process **at no cost** to the volunteer applicant.

- This includes club leaders and co-leaders, shooting sports club leaders and co-leaders
- Episodic volunteers who wants to be eligible to serve as a chaperone must be Level 1

#2: CERTIFIED LEVEL 2 VOLUNTEERS: An individual who works with Extension youth programs in roles not linked directly with youth and /or has limited/supervised youth interaction. Level 2 volunteers are not allowed to serve in roles where they could have direct youth interaction unless supervised by an Extension employee and/or a Level 1 volunteer. ***Level 2 volunteers are not required to complete the background screening process.**

- This is appropriate for an episodic volunteer and/or advisory council member who will only volunteer with youth during 4-H events that are staffed or supervised by Extension personnel or another Level 1 Volunteer.