

Utah 4-H Expansion and Review Committees *Developing a Meaningful Relationship*

Expansion and Review Committees are made up of volunteers who may possess a wide range of knowledge, skills and attitudes about 4-H. Their involvement in 4-H is generally highly variable based on years and types of service. In order for an Expansion and Review Committee to function meaningfully in county settings it is imperative that staff provide an orientation which will help E&R committees develop a common vision and purpose.

An orientation will provide a clear purpose and understanding of the 4-H youth development program and how the efforts of the committee can provide a supportive role in helping youth in a community gain access to 4-H youth development programs. The committee should gain an understanding of the “Big Picture” and how the committee’s efforts can contribute to the expanding 4-H opportunities to youth in their communities.

An orientation provides information to committee members on what is expected of them. Orientation establishes a meaningful relationship with the county staff and develops feelings of support from them. The orientation will also benefit the county staff since it will introduce the staff to the skills that the committee brings to this volunteer position. An orientation should provide:

1. An over view of federal and state laws related to making 4-H programs accessible to all youth.
 - a. Equal opportunity- program delivery and access and must consider the needs of groups that are traditionally underserved.
 - Identifying, planning and modifying programs to better serve their needs.
 - Making sure that under-served groups are aware of services and their availability.
 - b. Americans With Disabilities
 - Identifying alternative activities and ways to accommodate those with disabilities
 - c. Limited English Proficiency [LEP guidelines]
 - How will 4-H address limited English 4-H’ers who wishes to participate in programs and activities?
 - d. Non-discrimination
 - race, color, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age or disability
2. Goals of the 4-H Expansion and Review Committee should include:
 - a. Reviewing the operation of the 4-H Program
 - b. Identifying and implementing steps to correct inequities of access to the 4-H program [County mapping of clubs and potentials]
 - c. Creating action plans to reach new audiences and volunteers
 - d. Assisting in carrying out programming if necessary
 - e. Developing marketing plans
 - f. Reviewing and evaluating progress towards goals
3. Orientation might also include - County history of 4-H clubs
 - a. Extension staff and roles in 4-H
 - b. Program delivery modes and history of club marketing
 - c. Volunteer base and attracting new volunteers
 - d. 4-H projects and activities
 - e. Visions for the future