

For Immediate Release

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### **Volunteering Makes a Difference in Local Communities!**

Wanted...adults who want to help youth learn valuable skills and become productive citizens in local communities across the country. If you are interested, the Ohio 4-H program is looking for you, said Ryan Schmiesing, Associate State 4-H Leader, with Ohio State University Extension. According to Schmiesing, 4-H volunteers are individuals who want to help youth become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of society by developing life skills through social experiences and hands-on learning, which will help them develop to their maximum potential.

There are many different exciting roles that a 4-H volunteer may take on in the program. One may be volunteering to be a 4-H advisor, and work directly with a group of 4-H members. Another opportunity may be a county-wide resource person for a specific 4-H project such as photography, nutrition, rocketry, veterinary science, woodworking, or any one of hundred of different 4-H project areas. A different area for 4-H volunteers is to help other adults become effective advisors of youth or coordinating international programs, such as the Japanese exchange programs. Additionally, individuals may serve as camp staff for resident or day-camp programs, assist with small group activities at an after-school program, or coordinate workshops, recognition programs, or fundraising events. The possibilities really are limitless, and that's not only for adults!

Youth involved in 4-H are given numerous opportunities to become engaged in volunteerism as well. Benefits include: citizenship, confidence, new skills, life long friendships, and numerous others. According to the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), two out of three students entering college in 2005 believe it to be very important to help others who are in difficulty, the highest percentage in the last 25 years.

**[educator's full name]**, the **[county name]** county OSU Extension educator, 4-H Youth Development, agreed with Schmiesing about the need for 4-H volunteers.

**[educator's last name]** said 4-H volunteers are also needed locally to help with 4-H camps, 4-H clubs, 4-H contests and award programs, and county fair activities.

We want you, and the community needs you, so get in contact today. For more information on becoming a 4-H volunteer, contact the **[county name]** county OSU Extension office at **[office phone number]**.

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