

Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader

Volunteer Job Description

Ohio 4-H Program

Ohio State University Extension

Position Title: Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader

Time Required: Two-year minimum time commitment.
Must be able to attend a 6-hour volunteer workshop.
Initially, 10 - 15 hours to teach curriculum, then four hours per month.
Other time varies according to 4-H PetPALS training, visits, etc.

Location: Volunteer's Community

General Purpose: Serve as a 4-H club project leader to youth enrolled in the 4-H PetPALS program. Help recruit and teach youth, ages 9 - 18, with pets, to become 4-H PetPALS, conducting animal-assisted activities.

Specific Responsibilities:

- ◆ Incorporate the eight key elements of positive youth development in all aspects of 4-H;
- ◆ Be committed to young people and their growth in all areas;
- ◆ Be dedicated to young people and sensitive to their abilities and needs;
- ◆ Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio 4-H Program;
- ◆ Attend a 6-hour workshop to embrace positive youth development and learn how to implement the 4-H PetPALS program;
- ◆ Become a Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader as a result of the 6-hour workshop;
- ◆ Identify a minimum of three to five youth, ages 9-18, who show interest in 4-H PetPALS;
- ◆ Recruit these youth, ages 9-18, to become 4-H PetPALS;
- ◆ Help youth identify pets to socialize and train to become 4-H PetPALS;
- ◆ Provide the opportunity for youth to train their pets and prepare them for 4-H PetPALS visits using positive reinforcement and humane methods;
- ◆ Provide the opportunity for youth to socialize their pets throughout the training;
- ◆ Help youth and their pets successfully complete the requirements to become 4-H PetPALS for animal-assisted activities visits in local senior healthcare facilities such as skilled nursing, assisted living or retirement centers;
- ◆ Identify one senior healthcare facility desiring animal-assisted activities visits;
- ◆ Assist youth in making contacts with senior healthcare facility for 4-H PetPALS visits;
- ◆ Assist youth in making at least one visit per month to one or more senior healthcare facilities.
- ◆ Encourage 4-H parents to attend 4-H PetPALS club meetings and trainings; and
- ◆ Welcome parents' cooperation and support of 4-H PetPALS.



Qualifications:

An individual serving as a Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader must have:

- ◆ Been approved as a current 4-H volunteer;
- ◆ A sincere interest in working with 4-H members;
- ◆ Experience in working with dogs, cats and other acceptable pets; the volunteer may have a co-leader who does not have experience with animals;
- ◆ A sincere interest in animal-assisted activities;
- ◆ A desire to enhance the lives of senior healthcare skilled nursing, assisted living or retirement center residents;
- ◆ The ability to teach and motivate youth while nurturing positive self esteem, decision making, responsibility and leadership in the youth;
- ◆ A sincere interest in teaching and sharing knowledge and skills with youth in an educational setting;
- ◆ The ability to work and communicate effectively in verbal and written forms;
- ◆ The ability to work with minimal supervision from professional staff; and
- ◆ A willingness to become familiar with and work within the philosophy and guidelines of Ohio State University Extension and the Ohio 4-H program.

Ohio State University Extension Agrees To:

- ◆ Provide training opportunities that will help volunteers meet the needs of the youth;
- ◆ Provide appropriate curriculum and other resources;
- ◆ Provide avenue(s) for youth and their animals to become 4-H PetPALS;
- ◆ Have professionals available to consult with volunteers on a one-on-one basis; and
- ◆ Provide appropriate recognition and awards to volunteers and youth.

Supervising Professionals:

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