STATE 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

4-H is the youth development program of Washington State University Extension. As the largest youth development organization in Washington, 4-H reaches more than 90,000 young people. The 4-H Youth Development Program helps young people and adults put knowledge to work in all of Washington’s 39 counties.

The responsibility for 4-H programs is legally entrusted to the Director of Extension, Washington State University. Recommendations concerning policies, program changes, improvement, or modifications are made to and implemented with the approval of the State Program Director for 4-H Youth Development. State 4-H policies are reviewed periodically and published in EM0758. This 4-H policy statement and other 4-H publications are available online at http://4h.wsu.edu.

Advisory and/or implementing groups assisting in the development of programs and recommending policies include:

State 4-H Foundation

The Washington State 4-H Foundation, 7612 Pioneer Way East, Puyallup, WA 98371-4998 was established to solicit and expend private funds specifically in support of the 4-H Youth Development Program. Requests for funding current programs should be sent to the Foundation at the above address.

The Board of Trustees of the State 4-H Foundation are selected from interested citizens throughout the state. Members are selected for staggered three-year terms. This is a legally incorporated body having its own elected officers and 501(c) (3) status.

Washington 4-H Advisory Board

The purpose of the Washington State 4-H Advisory Board is to identify priority issues, concerns, and program opportunities that should be addressed by the Washington State 4-H Program. This Board serves in an advisory role to the State 4-H Program Director.

The Board advises the State 4-H Program Director on matters of 4-H program and policy and to plan and conduct the State 4-H Forum. Details on membership, organization, operation and responsibilities of the State 4-H Advisory Board can be found in that group’s constitution and bylaws on file in county Extension offices and on the State 4-H website http://4h.wsu.edu.
Washington State 4-H Fair Board

The purposes of the State 4-H Fair Board are twofold: (1) advise the State 4-H Program Director on State 4-H Fair programs, and (2) provide the organization, facilities, management, personnel, and finance necessary to conduct the Fair. WSU Extension provides supervisory personnel and program direction.

Details on membership, organization, and operation of the State 4-H Fair Board are contained in the “Bylaws of Washington State 4-H Fair Board, Inc.” and in the Memorandum of Understanding between WSU and the 4-H Fair Board of Trustees.

Volunteer Staff

The 4-H Youth Development Program includes youth and adults in volunteer leadership and support roles. 4-H members can provide volunteer leadership through the 4-H Leadership Project and by enrolling as a Youth Leader. An adult volunteer must be at least 18 years of age and not an enrolled 4-H member. All new Extension volunteers, including host family members and chaperones must be screened. Volunteers are expected to be familiar with C1001, “Child Abuse: Information for Washington State University Extension Faculty, Staff and Volunteers.”

Working with youth in the Extension 4-H Youth Development Program is a privilege and not a right. Volunteers are expected to be positive role models. Volunteers must sign and are expected to abide by the behavior guidelines in C1000, “A Valuable Partnership.” Volunteers serve at the pleasure of the University and may be dismissed at any time.