



## LEADERSHIP PROJECT AREA



*Leaders influence and support others in a positive manner for a shared goal. Leaders aren't just elected. You can be a leader of committees, small groups, and teams. Learning about yourself and how you work with others is a vital part of developing leadership skills.*

### Ideas for Project Area Learning

- Understand the roles, attitudes, tasks, and functions necessary for effective leadership.
- Participate in program planning, development, and implementation.
- Job shadow or interview a local leader.
- Take responsibility for a weekly chore in your home.
- Plan and present a fun club activity.
- Identify non-verbal communication behaviors.
- Create a weekly schedule for you and your family.
- Create a list of what motivates you, interview others to find out what motivates them and compare those lists.
- Identify characteristics of a good leader and how leaders develop trust.
- Research, write, and deliver a presentation.
- Identify leadership talents in your club, group, or community.
- Work with members to establish ground rules for club meetings.
- Experiment with different group decision-making techniques.
- Plan and present a project workshop.
- Run for office in your club.
- Create a list of your strengths and weaknesses in leadership.
- Practice interviewing skills with an adult.
- Write a personal vision and mission statement.
- Plan a meeting.
- Develop and implement a school survey of student's teachers and administrators.
- Identify various leadership styles.

## APPLY WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED

### Communication

- Notify families about club activities.
- Give a presentation on parliamentary procedure or other decision-making methods.
- Create a club web page.
- Write a letter to an elected official about an issue that is important to you and your community.

### Civic Engagement

- Plan for your club's next service project.
- Investigate a historical leader and share their accomplishments.
- Volunteer to serve on a committee for your next town celebration.
- Mentor a younger member with record-keeping and preparing exhibits for fair.
- Join a political campaign for a candidate you support.
- Serve on a local board that deals with youth issues.

### Entrepreneurship

- Review and revise resumes or online professional profiles.
- Start a motivational speaking business.
- Lead a summer class on how to become a leader in your community.



## Goal Setting and Record Keeping

Goal setting is an ongoing process that guides your project area learning. Having goals is like having a road map to show you how to get you to where you want to go. Record keeping is also an ongoing process and another important life skill. In 4-H, you are encouraged to select from a variety of record keeping formats to meet your own personal needs and your preferred learning style. Keeping records of your learning experiences helps you determine how well you met your goals. Goal setting and record keeping improve your skills in organization, communication, planning, and evaluating.

## Iowa 4-H Event Opportunities

- Participate in **county and state fair** exhibit classes.
- Check with your local county 4-H youth development staff to see if there are special events or **workshops in your county** that you want to attend to learn more about your project areas.
- Iowa 4-H members in grades 9–12 can apply for **State Project Area Awards** at State Recognition Day. Applications are open December through January.
- Meet young people from around the state who have completed grades 8–12, and share your interests at the **Iowa 4-H Youth Conference** held at Iowa State University in late June.
- Travel to Washington D.C. to learn about being a leader in your community and in the world through **Citizenship Washington Focus**.
- Apply to be an Iowa Delegate to the **National 4-H Conference** through State Recognition Day. Delegates research important topics and present solutions to national agencies.

## Share Your Learning With an Exhibit

- Make a poster with a time line to demonstrate a historical leader's rise and accomplishments.
- Exhibit a calendar or log of weekly responsibilities in your home.
- Create before and after photos of a room that you organized, focusing on the development of your organizational skills.
- Give a presentation on the elements of an effective meeting.
- Develop a graphic organizer to showcase the talents in your club or community.
- Create a resume showcasing your skills and strengths.

## CAREER CONNECTIONS

- **Business managers** work daily with their employees, solve conflicts, and prepare reports.
- **Public relations specialists** establish strong relationships with the news media and business groups.
- **Organizational development specialists** ensure companies develop efficient organizational skills and action plans.
- **Management consultants** work with companies to solve issues, communicate with employees, and improve performance and value.

## EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

- Get your certificate in **organizational leadership** to develop management and leadership skills.
- Students in **business management** study how to best market, manage and oversee a company while working with a team.
- If you enjoy communicating with others through verbal, written, and news broadcasting, you may enjoy a degree in **communications!**
- Learn **organizational psychology** if you enjoy communicating conflict management practices with others.

Written Iowa 4-H Youth Development 2013. Revised in 2019 by Bonnie Dalager, 4-H Product Development Specialist, and Payton Sash, 4-H Student Office Assistant, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.