

Finding Resource People in Your Community

Take a look around your community – there are a variety of people with different skills and talents. These people are a potential resource in your community. You may be looking for a public speaking judge or someone to teach a specialized project skill. The success of inviting resource people to your club or district activity or event is knowing whom to ask. Tap into the resources of the parent group in your club or members of district council.



Qualities of resource people:

When you are looking for someone to help your club or district council with a specific project or activity remember to look at:

- **Someone with specific skills.** For example, if your foods project is preparing a special occasion cake, you may want to approach the baker from the local grocery store or bakery.
- **Someone who is able to work with youth.** Some people aren't comfortable working with certain age groups – it would not be a positive experience for anyone involved if the match isn't right.
- **Able to commit the time for the task.** Let's face it – people are very busy and may not have the time to commit to doing a good job.

Where to look for resource people:

There are people in your community that have skills and talents that they could contribute to your club.

- **Community leaders** – local politicians, local newspaper staff, and business related organizations (such as the local Chamber of Commerce). If they are unable to help your club, they may know of someone who can help.
- **Retired or semi-retired community members** – they have experience, time and skills that they may be willing to share with the 4-H members, clubs or district.
- **Businesses** – businessmen will have ideas and experiences that would be of benefit
- **Schools** – teachers are valuable resource people
- **Church** – clergy or members of the congregation will have a vast array of experiences that they would be willing to share
- **Community and service groups** – individuals involved in these groups have experiences that they would be willing to share

What do resource people want to know before volunteering:

There are several questions that people have before they will say yes to volunteering with your club.

- What is the specific task you would like them to help with?
- What is expected of them?
- What age group they will be working with?
- The time commitment?
- Reimbursement for expenses – honorarium, travel, teaching supplies, etc.?
- Orientation to 4-H? Especially if they are not familiar with your club and the program.

When recruiting volunteers, develop an individualized request. Use the following three steps:

1. List the skills, knowledge, experience, and interests that are needed for a particular volunteer job;
2. Identify an individual who has the best combination of the desired skills, knowledge, experience, and interests; and
3. Put together three reasons why the potential volunteer would benefit from volunteering.

Write down the points on a piece of paper and practice what you are going to say to this individual. You can be successful at recruiting volunteers by presenting the request in a very positive manner. Good luck!