

Geauga County

14269 Claridon Troy Rd P.O. Box 387 Burton, OH 44021

Phone (440) 834-4656 Fax (440) 834-0057 geau@ag.ohio-state.edu

Dear Potential Geauga County 4-H Volunteer,

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with the 4-H program in Geauga County. According to the Ohio State University Extension Volunteer Policy effective November 1, 2002, all potential volunteers will: (1) receive a position description; (2) complete an application and return it to the Extension Office; (3) have references submit their reference forms to the Extension Office; (4) complete an interview; (5) submit to a criminal history fingerprint record check; and (6) agree to and sign the volunteer standards of behavior form.

Attached you will find all the information you will need to complete each phase of the volunteer selection process.

- Complete the volunteer application, standards of behavior form, and the county advisor agreement in their entirety and return all three forms to the Geauga County Extension Office, P.O. Box 387, Burton, OH 44021.
- Have two references submit reference forms to the Extension Office.
- Have a letter of support from the head volunteer of the club you are wishing to join (Advisor may email letter to the Extension Office).
- Have your fingerprints taken electronically.
- Contact the Extension Office to schedule your face-to-face interview with the 4-H Educator (all application materials must be submitted before an interview will be scheduled).
- Complete Ohio State University 4-H New Volunteer Orientation & Child Abuse Training.

The volunteer selection process takes approximately 4 to 6 weeks to complete and <u>must</u> be completed successfully before a volunteer begins to work with the Geauga County 4-H program. Therefore, please plan accordingly and return the enclosed application at your earliest convenience so that we may begin the process. To be an approved volunteer for the 2018 4-H year, the entire volunteer selection process must be completed by **March 31, 2020.**

Additional information can be found at http://www.ohio4h.org/volunteers/. Should you have any questions, please contact (440) 834-4656

Sincerely,

Alisha Faudie

Alisha Faudie Extension Educator 4-H Youth Development



GEAUGA COUNTY 4-H VOLUNTEER APPLICATION FORM



I. General Information			
Name:(First) (Middle)		(Last)	
Mailing Address:	(City)	(State)	
Phone: Day: ()	Best	time to Call:	
Cell: ()	Best	time to Call:	
Length of time at current address:		Date of Birth: (MM/DD/YY)	
Email:			
Occupation:		Years at this employmen	nt:
Current Employer:		Work Phone: () _	
Business Address:	(City)	(State)	(Zip)
Previous Employment			
(Years) (Employer)	(Position	n)	
(Years) (Employer)	(Position	n)	
II. Volunteer Interest			
Why are you interested in volunteering for C	OSU Extension and Go	eauga County 4-H?	
Which club(s) are you interested in voluntee	ering with?		

Please check the 4-H programs you are interested in:

Organizational Advisor – Serves as primary liaison between county 4-H professionals and club members, parents, and other club advisors

Project Advisor – Assists members with project experience in a given subject matter.

Activities Advisor – Aids members in planning and conducting club activities like fundraisers and club trips.

Cloverbud Advisor – Serves as the organizational, project, and activities advisor for the cloverbud members in a 4-H club.

General 4-H Volunteer – Assists with county 4-H activities and events such as project judging, 4-H camp, QA, style review, etc. This volunteer does not serve as a club advisor and will be called upon by county 4-H staff to assist with programming.

Age level(s) y	ou prefer working with:	5-8	9 -12	□ 13-19	□Adults
☐ 4-H Camp	s Leisure Arts nt			enship s ogy, Engineer	ing, & Mathematics (STEM
Describe you	r skills, abilities, and ho	obbies, as related	I to this volunteer pos	sition.	
If interested in	n the role of Project Ad	visor, specify wh	at project area		
What qualifies	s you as an expert in th	nis area?			
	special trainings, forma r targeted clientele rela			d experience	working with different
Previous 4-H	•				
			n(s):		
Location(s): _	(If in Geauga County, please spo	ecify which club(s))			
Previous Volu	unteer Experience: (Lis	t current or most	recent experience fir	st)	
(Year)	(Organization)	(Volunteer Role)	(Duties)		
(Year)	(Organization)	(Volunteer Role)	(Duties)		

III. Background Information		
This information will be kept in a confidential n does not automatically exclude you from become		to authorized personnel. A "yes" answer
Have you ever been convicted of a misdemea If yes, please give date, nature, and disposition		□ No
Have you ever been convicted of a felony? If yes, please give date, nature, and disposition	☐ Yes on of offense.	□ No
Other than the above, is there any fact or circular question your being entrusted with the supervolution No		
I understand that a background check must be	e conducted before voluntee	er status can be given.
Signature, Volunteer Applicant		Date
IV. Personal References		
Please provide three non-family members who Individuals should have worked with you on pure knowledge of your qualifications. Please provincomplete and return the attached reference for Name:	rojects and activities and/or de complete addresses and orms to our office.	have direct experience with or I phone numbers. Please have them
	•	1 Hone. ()
Address: (Street)	(City)	(State) (Zip)
Name:	·	Phone: ()
Address:(Street)	(City)	(State) (Zip)
Name:	Relationship:	Phone: ()
Address:	(City)	(State) (Zip)
(Street)		

V. Volunteer Agreement

To be approved as a Geauga County 4-H Volunteer, you must:

- Be at least 18 years of age. (Previous 4-H members must wait one year after they are ineligible to participate in 4-H before one can apply to be a 4-H volunteer.)
- Complete an Ohio 4-H Volunteer Application.
- Be subject to a criminal background check and screening process.
- Comply with the Ohio State University Standards of Behavior Agreement
- Comply with the Geauga County Advisor Agreement.
- Complete annual OSU Child Abuse & Recognition training
- Submit complete application, references, and schedule the volunteer interview before the stated yearly deadline to the Geauga County 4-H Extension Office to be eligible for volunteer status for the current 4-H year.

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING BEFORE SIGNING:

Media Release

I understand that photos and video/audio recordings of me may be made during 4-H meetings, events and activities that may be used in whole or in part by OSU Extension to promote the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Trainings

If accepted as a OSU Extension Volunteer in the 4-H Youth Development Program, I agree to complete the basic orientation and trainings required of all OSU Extension 4-H Volunteers. In addition, I understand that additional training requirements may vary in each county and with specific volunteer positions.

- Volunteers who do not meet the yearly required trainings will be removed as a Geauga County 4-H Volunteer. If an individual wishes to return as a 4-H Volunteer, he/she must complete the volunteer screening process.
 - I understand that the information I have provided may be verified by contacting persons or organizations identified in this application.
 - I affirm that the information given in this application is true and accurate.
 - I understand that the misrepresentation or omission of information required is just cause for non-appointment as a 4-H volunteer with Ohio State University Extension.
 - I understand that I serve at the pleasure of the Ohio State University Extension and agree to abide by the policies of the Ohio State University Extension and individual program areas and to fulfill the volunteer responsibilities to the best of my ability.

Applicant Signature	Date

GEAUGA COUNTY ADVISOR AGREEMENT

Position Title: Geauga County 4-H Club Advisor

Volunteer Job Description:

A 4-H club advisor is an individual who works with a 4-H community or project club. The club advisor's function is to assist the clubs members as they plan the club's program, conduct business, and enroll individually or as a group in one or more 4-H projects. Specifically, there are three types of clubs advisors.

- Organizational Advisor one who serves as the primary liaison between the county 4-H professionals and the club's membership, parents, and other advisors in that club.
- 2. <u>Project Advisor</u> one who assists 4-H members with project experience in a given subject matter area.
- Activities Advisor one who works with members in planning and conducting club activities. Including but not limited to fund-raising, tours, community services, etc.
- 4. <u>Cloverbud Advisor</u> one who works primarily with Cloverbuds. No project based expertise is necessary.

Qualifications:

- The ability to teach and motivate youth while nurturing positive self-esteem, decision making, responsibility, and leadership.
- A sincere interest in teaching and sharing knowledge and skills with youth and adults in an educational setting.
- The ability to organize information and materials and delegate responsibility.
- The ability to motivate other volunteers and parents to assume leadership roles.
- The ability to work and communicate effectively in both verbal and written forms.
- The ability to keep an open mind and listen to young people as they make their own decisions.
- The ability to work with minimal supervision from professional staff.
- A willingness to accept the responsibility to represent their individual county Extension program and the Ohio State University Extension program with dignity and pride by being a positive mentor for the youth in Geauga County 4-H clubs.
- A willingness to become familiar with and work within the philosophy and guidelines of the Ohio State University Extension, Ohio 4-H, and Geauga County 4-H programs.

Responsibilities:

- Support 4-H professionals, volunteers, and members in conducting meaningful education experiences to help youths grow and reach their fullest potential.
- Inform and encourage members, parents, and other volunteers to actively participate in 4-H opportunities such as 4-H camp, demonstration contests, public speaking contests, appropriate educational clinics, and county activities and events.
- Be committed to young people and their growth in all areas. Put the needs of youth **first** and awards and competition **second**.
- Involve members in making decisions and in planning a club program that will include project work, community service, and social/recreational activities. Encourage participation according to interest, abilities, and needs.
- Perform duties in a responsible and timely manner as outlined in the job description.
- Be aware of available projects and help member's select realistic ones.
- Encourage parents' assistance, cooperation, support, and attendance at 4-H club activities. Encourage them to support their child's project without doing it for them.
- Ensure that club officers learn how to plan and conduct club meetings and activities.
 Assist news reporter in publicizing activities. Assist older members in developing a leadership role.
- Inform the community of the 4-H program. Recruit new members when the club has openings. If your club is full and there are people who still want to join, refer their names, addresses, and phone numbers to the Extension office.

Requirements:

- Participate in the following annual volunteer development opportunities:
 - 1. New Volunteer Orientation & Mandatory OSU Child Abuse & Recognition Training
 - 2. A Qualifying Volunteer Training Event

Work with the Extension office to gain additional information and assistance as needed. Volunteers who do not meet the yearly required trainings will be removed as a Geauga County 4-H Volunteer. Upon dissolution, if an individual wishes to return as a 4-H Volunteer, he/she must wait the period of one year (12 months) and complete the volunteer screening process.

- Submit to a BCI screening every 4 years of continued service.
- Maintain accurate club enrollment and club documentation. Submit required information to the Extension office in a timely manner and keep the office informed of any changes.
- Plan at least eight (8) club business meetings per year.
- Plan, with member's participation, the year's program and see that each member gets a copy. Also send a copy to the Extension office. The program, as much as possible, should include dates, times, places, and preferably who is responsible for planned activities.
- Attend 75% of club meetings. Three or more un-excused absences will result in probation. (Those needing to miss more than 3 meetings and have a valid reason, will need to obtain excused permission from the Extension office prior to the meetings. A written letter of explanation is required. All requests will be considered on a case by case basis.)
- Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of the Ohio State University Extension, the Ohio 4-H program, and the Geauga County 4-H program.
- Volunteers must serve in a club in good standing for at least two years before entertaining the idea of starting a new club. All new clubs must have prior approval from the Extension Office.
- Organize, teach, and conduct one educational information workshop session per year with the 4-H club. Collaboration with other 4-H clubs and the community is encouraged but not required.
- Practice a non-discriminatory membership policy with memberships open to all youth, kindergarten through age 19 as of January 1st of the current membership year, without regard to race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, or handicap.
- Return completed 4-H enrollment forms and fees, and project book fees to the Extension office by April 15. No changes will occur after April 15 without permission from the Extension office.

Applicant should retain pages 1-3 of Advisor Agreement for personal records.

Geauga County 4-H Advisor Agreement

The goal of the 4-H Advisor is to provide opportunities for youths to develop and grow using positive characteristics, so every individual is provided a positive environment in which to learn. This agreement sets the standard of behavior that all advisors are expected to follow.

I have read and understand the responsibilities I will be expected to fulfill as a 4-H club advisor. I will strive to the policies of the Geauga County and Ohio 4-H programs. I understand that failure to uphold the Ohio 4-H Standards of Behavior or the Geauga County Advisor Agreement will result in probation, loss of privileges, and/or mandated project area change. I understand that this agreement may be terminated by the volunteer or the Ohio State University Extension staff.

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Ohio State University Extension Volunteer Standards of Behavior & Member/Service Recipient Protection



This Standards of Behavior is a contractual agreement accepted by volunteers who commit to an Ohio State University Extension program. The Standards of Behavior shall guide volunteer's behavior during their involvement in Extension programs. Just as it is a privilege for Ohio State University to work with individuals who volunteer their time and energies to the organization, a volunteer's involvement with Ohio State University Extension is a privilege and a responsibility, not a right.

Ohio State University Extension provides quality educational programs accessible to all Ohio citizens. The primary purpose of this Standard of Behavior is to insure the safety and wellbeing of all Extension program participants (i.e., members, their parents and families, professionals, and volunteers). Volunteers are expected to function within the guidelines of Ohio State University Extension and the individual (4-H, Agricultural & Natural Resources, Family & Consumer Sciences, Community Development) program area. Ohio State University Extension volunteers shall be individuals of personal integrity.

Ohio State University Extension volunteers will:

- Uphold volunteerism as an effective way to meet the needs of youth and adults.
- Uphold an individual's right to dignity, self-development, and self-direction.
- Accept supervision and support from professional Extension staff while involved in the program.
- Accept the responsibility to represent their individual county Extension program and the Ohio State University.
- Conduct themselves in a courteous and respectful manner, exhibit good sportsmanship and provide positive role models for all youth.
- Respect, adhere to, and enforce the rules, policies, and guidelines established by their individual county Extension program and Ohio State University Extension.
- <u>Not</u> engage in abusive behaviors that physically or verbally threaten or harm any Extension program participant, including youth.
- Not commit a felonious act.
- Comply with all civil rights laws and policies, including but not limited to O.S.U. Extension equal opportunity, antidiscrimination laws, and program participant policy.
- Perform duties in a responsible and timely manner as outlined in the job description.
- Report immediately any threats to the volunteer's emotional or physical well being to the county Extension professional.
- Accept the responsibility to promote and support Extension programs in order to develop an effective county, state, and national program.
- Handle animals and operate machinery, vehicles, and other equipment in a responsible manner.

I understand that:

- Volunteers will not intentionally or purposefully place themselves in a position alone with a member of a
 vulnerable population, in a one-on-one situation, including, but not limited sharing sleeping quarters with nonrelated members and/or participants.
- Volunteers will endeavor to provide safe and healthy programs for all participants. In cases of illness or injury,
 participants will be treated on-site by the appropriate health care provider or taken to an appropriate health care
 provider if necessary, when a legal parent, guardian or caregiver is not available for consultation.
- Volunteers, will not, under any circumstances, physically, verbally or emotionally abuse, or fail to provide the basic necessities of care, such as food or shelter to members or participants.

I have read and understand the Standards of Behavior and Member/Service recipient protection policy outlined above. I understand and agree that any act or omission on my part that contradicts any portion of these standards is grounds for immediate suspension and/or termination of my volunteer status with the Ohio State University Extension Program.

Signature	Date	Signature of Extension Professional	Date
Print Name			



CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE FORM Geauga County 4-H Volunteer



Applicant's Name:					
Your name:		Phone: ()			
In what capacity have you known this applicant?					
How long have you known this applican					
Please mark how you would evaluate th	ne applicant's qu	alities.			
	Excellent	Good	Fair	Not Known	
Communication Skills					
Organizational Skills					
Dependability					
Responsibility/Follow Through					
Patience					
Initiative					
Flexibility					
Resourcefulness					
Ability to Organize					
Sense of Fairness					
Sense of Humor					
Understanding of Youth					
Ability to work with youth					
Ability to work with adults					
Respect for Others					
Please share your comments regarding possible.	any of the abov	e qualities by	using spec	ific examples, when	
What qualities does this person have th	at will benefit 4-	H as a Youth	Organizatio	nn?	
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Would you be willing to pla for under the applicant's le ☐ Yes ☐ No Comments:	,	or any other child for whom you a	are responsible
Do you know of any reason youth? Yes No If yes, explain:	n why this person should	not be in an unsupervised leade	rship role with
Are you aware of any limita with youth? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, explain:	ations that would make th	is person an unsuitable voluntee	r to be working
Signature		Date	
Thank you! We apprecia	te vour assistance in helr	oing Geauga County 4-H select th	e hest qualified

Thank you! We appreciate your assistance in helping Geauga County 4-H select the best qualified people to serve in volunteer roles.

All information you have provided will be kept confidential and used only to determine the candidate's suitability as a 4-H volunteer.

Please return this completed form to:
Ohio State University Extension
Geauga County
P.O. Box 387
Burton, OH 44021



CONFIDENTIAL REFERENCE FORM Geauga County 4-H Volunteer



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	Excellent	Good	Fair	Not Known
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☐ Fair. This person wo	st this person with my red	cords and money. ome help handling records and r	noney.
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Would you be willing to pla for under the applicant's lea ☐ Yes ☐ No Comments:		or any other child for whom you a	are responsible
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Are you aware of any limita with youth? Yes No If yes, explain:	ations that would make th	is person an unsuitable voluntee	r to be working
Signature		Date	
Thank you! We apprecia	to vour accietance in halm	sing Gozuga County 4-H soloct th	a bast qualified

Thank you! We appreciate your assistance in helping Geauga County 4-H select the best qualified people to serve in volunteer roles.

All information you have provided will be kept confidential and used only to determine the candidate's suitability as a 4-H volunteer.

Please return this completed form to:
Ohio State University Extension
Geauga County
P.O. Box 387
Burton, OH 44021



The Ohio State University Extension Volunteer Selection Policy & Procedures



Frequently Asked Questions.

Can you provide an overview of what the new policy and procedure will require?

Each new volunteer will: (1) receive a position description at time of application or when changing position; (2) complete an application in it's entirety; (3) have, at minimum, two references collected; (4) complete an interview; (5) successfully pass a criminal history fingerprint background check; and (6) read, agree to, and sign a Standards of Behavior.

What happens if a potential volunteer refuses to complete any part of the required policy or procedures?

Individuals must fully complete all requirements in order to be considered for acceptance as a volunteer for Ohio State University Extension. Individuals not fully completing all requirements will not be accepted to volunteer by the organization.

Who determines if a potential volunteer is going to be accepted or not accepted?

The appropriate Ohio State University Faculty or Staff member will make the final decision of acceptance or non-acceptance, based on information collected throughout the selection process.

We are attempting to determine when it is necessary for an individual, who considers themselves a "parent helper" to complete the OSU Extension volunteer process.

First, we must recognize that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between the two, however answering the following question may provide some clarity: (1) does the individual provide on-going support, leadership, supervision or guidance to children, other than their own and on two or more occasions each year? If the answer were yes, then the individual would need to complete the volunteer selection process. Please know that this same scenario may be used for any member of a vulnerable population, not just a 4-H club!

What happens if there is a conviction on the record of a potential volunteer?

Current legislation outlines fifty offenses that are considered automatically disqualifying offenses. Offenses beyond the fifty listed will be evaluated individually and decisions will be based on the nature of offense, time since offense, rehabilitative action taken and/or completed by the individual, and relationship to potential volunteer responsibilities.

We have potential volunteers that were fingerprinted in the last 12 months and they are bringing a copy of their report to our office. What do I do with them?

Please just send the reports to the State 4-H Office and we will make sure they are filed with all other reports and appropriately entered into our database.

How long does it take to receive the results on an individual's civilian background check?

We are experiencing a 3 to 4 week turn-around time for results once they are submitted to the Bureau of Criminal Investigation & Identification (BCI&I). Those individuals who use the web-check system are getting results slightly quicker. It is important to remember that the county Extension professional is responsible for submitting the list of individuals that have submitted fingerprints to the State 4-H Office. Once the State 4-H Office receives results, they can then match results with the correct individuals and counties and report to the appropriate county.

Is there a rescreening process?

Yes, all active 4-H volunteers must resubmit for a background check every four years.

GEAUGA COUNTY 4-H VOLUNTEER Procedure for Background Check & Interview

Where can I get my fingerprints taken?

Because the Ohio State University Extension submits more than 200 requests for background checks through BCI&I, since February 1, 2006, all background checks must be submitted electronically. This can either be done through WebCheck or other approved methods. We understand that there will be times when an ink-rolled fingerprint card will need to be submitted. These situations will be evaluated on an individual basis and will require submission of a waiver form with each card. Waivers will be granted for the following reasons:

- 1. Applicant's home address is 75 miles or more from the nearest WebCheck location.
- 2. Amputations or missing digits
- 3. Out-of-state applicant
- 4. Poor quality prints (not able to capture at the WebCheck location)

All OSU Extension volunteer will have their background check run using "reason code" 2151.86 (this refers to a specific section of the Ohio Revised Code).

Available location: Lake/Geauga ESC (Auburn Career Center)

8221 Auburn Rd.

Concord Township, OH 44077 Hours: 8:00am – 2:30pm (440) 350-2563 ext 0

Please call for an appointment. We offer same day appointments as the schedule permits.

* Potential volunteers are required to pay *all* fees associated with the selection process.

Where do I send my results?

All fingerprint reports should be sent to: Backgound Checks – 4-H Geauga County

OSU Office of Human Resources

1590 N. High St. Suite 300 Columbus, OH 43201

Scheduling your interview.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to contact the Geauga County Extension Office at (440) 834-4656 to set up an interview only after he/she has submitted their application and has completed the background check. The office is open Monday through Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm. Interviews are conducted during regular business hours.