

# *Leader Training Series*

## **Welcome to the Berkeley County 4-H Family!**

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### **A 4-H Vision**

The name 4-H in Berkeley County conjures up different pictures for different people. 2009 will be the 96<sup>th</sup> year of 4-H in Berkeley County. Your vision of 4-H may be “cows and cooking”, style revue, a model rocket launch, the Berkeley County Youth Fair, 4-H Camp Frame, boys and girls learning about conservation or natural science, dancing and singing, horse shows; or a youth, defying their nerves as they give a talk and demonstration. Your vision depends on your experiences with 4-H Youth Development.

### **4-H is . . . People**

Whatever your vision, 4-H is about people, both adult and youth. 4-H is about helping adults and youth grow, learn, and develop into the most competent people they can be. It is about Extension educators teaching the latest technology and information to people in the community where they live and work so they can put the knowledge to work for themselves, their families, communities, and society as a whole.

### **4-H is . . . Experience Centered Learning**

4-H is education for life! The 4-H Program is experience centered, not just information giving. This learn-by-doing approach enables young people to learn what is useful to them. It enables them to adapt what they learn to everyday life through action and reflection. 4-H gives youth the opportunity to experience a sense of accomplishment and success, key ingredients to gaining a sense of self-esteem.

### **New Pictures for the Vision**

That is why the 4-H program, in Berkeley County is adding new pictures to the vision of 4-H. Now you can envision:

- a 4-H activity or a 4-H club in an after or before school child care setting;
- a small business being run by a group of youth;
- a group of children, in a short term program, learning about the right foods to eat;
- a classroom teacher using 4-H curriculum to enrich his curriculum or leading a 4-H club in school.

**4-H is . . . Volunteers** 4-H volunteers are taught how to provide a safe environment for youth so kids can experiment, make mistakes, correct mistakes, learn and grow. In 4-H mistakes are not viewed as failure, but as a part of a normal learning process. If a person is performing without mistakes, then it is time to set a new challenge and move on to learn a new skill.

By the time you are reading this welcome to 4-H, you might have already decided to invite someone you know to be a 4-H volunteer. I celebrate with each and every one of you who have chosen the 4-H experience. Of more value than the skills you teach to youth or adults is the message you convey that they are, first and foremost, persons of value who have much to contribute!

## **Support for**

You will continue to receive training and support for whichever volunteer role you choose. New volunteers will begin one step at a time, and before you know it you will be running with the 4-H program!

## **Volunteers**

Thank you for being you! Thank you for volunteering to share your uniqueness with Berkeley County 4-H youth and other volunteers.

Berkeley County 4-H is about people like you working with other adults and youth.

**BERKELEY COUNTY 4-H IS EDUCATION FOR LIFE!**

**WELCOME AND THANKS FOR BEING A PART OF  
THE BERKELEY COUNTY 4-H FAMILY!**

## **Sources**

Frame, N (1922) WVU Cooperative Extension Annual Report  
*Smith, Betty Ann (1994) County 4-H Agent, Middlesex County,*