

4-H #116 (A)

Philosophies and Goals of the B.C. 4-H Program

The priority of this organization is to run safe programming for children, and that is not sacrificed at any cost to get a volunteer leader to become involved. We believe that all children have the potential to become productive, self-assured adults who are capable of contributing toward making their community and country a good place in which to live. The 4-H Motto is "Learn to do by doing". This process applies to both members and volunteer leaders in our program. Leadership training will be available to you. It must be completed within your first two years of leadership.

In keeping with our philosophies and goals we believe that children should be encouraged to:

- * feel good about themselves
- * feel accepted
- * feel important
- * feel successful
- * feel cared for
- * feel appreciated
- * feel rewarded for good and/or improving conduct

All personnel, either paid or volunteer, in their associations with children, shall:

- * encourage participation
- * set achievable goals
- * provide a range of activities for participation
- * allow for individual differences and abilities
- * set an appropriate example
- * reward and encourage individual improvement
- * give as much personal attention as possible, especially to children who appear in the greatest need.

A youth serving organization which fails to do everything possible to screen out those workers or volunteers who would abuse children is liable to a civil suit. Without adequate protection and without proof that certain procedures have been followed to admit only those volunteers or workers who will care for children appropriately, a youth serving organization may face a court action that could bring financial disaster and obliterate the group's goodwill in the community!

The best way to protect the children and the good image of the organization is to put into effect a comprehensive registration/enrolment procedure for new workers and volunteers.

Only by implementing these procedures into the B.C. 4-H Program can we really feel as an organization that we have "Put the Child First".

Your cooperation and willingness in this matter show your support of our philosophies and goals, and we would like to thank you in advance for the interest you have shown in our youth development program.