

*belonging, mastery, independence, generosity*



## Wyoming 4-H Philosophy

# 4-H County Councils



To have a successful county 4-H program, volunteer leaders and youth need to have support and buy-in to the programming efforts on a county-wide basis. A county 4-H council provides an avenue for this communication.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the county council is to organize, plan, implement, and evaluate the 4-H program at the county level through use of various committees. Under the direction of the county educator, the council also raises, maintains, and manages funds in the best interest of the county 4-H program.

It is recommended county 4-H educators establish a 4-H council of 4-H adult and youth leaders who provide input and advice regarding the county 4-H program. Ideally, the council is comprised of a broad representation of the entire county 4-H program.

### **Function**

It is recommended the first two meetings are: 1.) To assess needs and 2.) To plan events for the year based on those needs. Subsequent meetings can be held on an as-needed basis. Committees may need to meet on a more regular basis depending on the needs of the project area.

The council should assess 4-H educational programming needs in the county and make recommendations to the 4-H educator. This serves as a foundation for each club's annual plan of work as it relates to identified needs. There should be a correlation between the council's plan of educational activities and a club's schedule of project learning.

### **Example:**

At the beginning of a new 4-H year, the county educator schedules a council meeting to assess the needs for the county 4-H program. At the next scheduled meeting, the council develops a plan to focus on new member success, youth leadership development, and ongoing opportunities that include county 4-H camp, carnival, county contests, fundraisers, county fair, etc.

Committees can be formed to support efforts of any ongoing opportunities. They meet on an as-needed basis and are responsible for the success of the identified need/ongoing event and are accountable to the county council and ultimately to the county 4-H educator.