Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader Training

DATE:
Saturday, June 7, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
McClain County OSU Extension Office, Purcell, OK

REGISTRATION INFORMATION:
Registration is required, to register, contact Steve Beck at (405) 744-8886 or steve.beck@okstate.edu.

Curriculum and supplies are being funded through the Oklahoma 4-H Companion Animal Project. Lunch will be on your own.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:
This Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Training is for adult 4-H volunteers who desire to lead 4-H PetPALS clubs and teach youth who are interested in becoming 4-H PetPALS. 4-H PetPALS is an intergenerational program linking youth and their pets with senior adults. Master 4-H Volunteer Leaders teach youth the skills needed to interact with residents in healthcare facilities, such as assisted living and skilled nursing facilities, enhancing intergenerational relationships. 4-H members learn to select, socialize, and train their pets to participate as youth-pet teams in animal-assisted activities. Youth and their pets, accompanied by adult volunteers, visit senior healthcare facilities.
Volunteer Job Description
Oklahoma State 4-H Program

Position Title: Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader

Time Required: Two-year, minimum, time commitment. Must be able to attend a 6-hour volunteer workshop. Initially, 10 - 15 hours to teach curriculum, then four hours per month. Other time varies according to 4-H PetPALS training, visits, etc.

Location: Volunteer’s Community

General Purpose: Serve as a 4-H club project leader to youth enrolled in the 4-H PetPALS program. Help recruit and teach youth, ages 9 - 18, with pets, to become 4-H PetPALS, conducting animal-assisted activities.

Specific Responsibilities:
- Incorporate the eight key elements of positive youth development in all aspects of 4-H;
- Be committed to young people and their growth in all areas;
- Be dedicated to young people and sensitive to their abilities and needs;
- Follow all 4-H guidelines and policies of Oklahoma 4-H Program;
- Attend a 6-hour workshop to learn about positive youth development and the 4-H PetPALS program;
- Become a Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader as a result of the 6-hour workshop;
- Identify a minimum of five youth, ages 9-18, and their pets, who show interest in 4-H PetPALS;
- Recruit these youth, ages 9-18, to become 4-H PetPALS;
- Provide the opportunity for youth and their pets to receive training utilizing positive reinforcement and humane methods;
- Provide the opportunity for youth to receive socialization training with their pets;
- Help youth and their pets successfully complete the requirements to become 4-H PetPALS for animal-assisted visits in local senior healthcare facilities such as skilled nursing, assisted living or retirement centers;
- Identify one senior healthcare facility desiring animal-assisted visits;
- Assist youth in making contacts with senior healthcare facility for 4-H PetPALS visits;
- Assist youth in making at least one visit per month to one or more senior healthcare facilities;
- Encourage 4-H parents’ interest in 4-H PetPALS; and
- Welcome parents’ cooperation and support of 4-H PetPALS.
Qualifications:

An individual serving as a Master 4-H PetPALS Volunteer Leader must have:
- Must already be a certified 4-H Volunteer in their home county
- A sincere interest in working with 4-H members;
- Experience in working with dogs, cats and other acceptable pets; the volunteer may have a co-leader who does not have experience with animals;
- A sincere interest in animal-assisted activities;
- A desire to enhance the lives of senior healthcare skilled nursing, assisted living or retirement center residents;
- The ability to teach and motivate youth while nurturing positive self esteem, decision making, responsibility and leadership in the youth;
- A sincere interest in teaching and sharing knowledge and skills with youth in an educational setting;
- The ability to work and communicate effectively in verbal and written forms;
- The ability to work with minimal supervision from professional staff; and
- A willingness to become familiar with and work within the philosophy and guidelines of the Oklahoma State 4-H Program

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Agrees To:

- Provide training opportunities that will help volunteers meet the needs of the youth;
- Provide appropriate curriculum and other resources;
- Provide avenue(s) for youth and their animals to become 4-H PetPALS;
- Have professionals available to consult with volunteers on a one-to-one basis; and
- Provide appropriate recognition and awards to volunteers and youth.

Supervising Professional:

Steve Beck
Assistant Extension Specialist, 4-H Youth Development
Companion Animal Programs
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The 4-H PetPALS is a program of the Ohio State University Extension and has been adapted with their permission for the Oklahoma 4-H program.