



# LEADERSHIP

## SKILLS:

- Recognize one's own talents and leadership needs
- Complete a leadership service project
- Improve technology skills
- Explore the eight "I's" of leadership
- Identify good leadership characteristics
- Discover personal leadership skills and abilities
- Apply leadership skills by working with younger 4-H'ers

Leadership is a very personal skill that involves giving of one's self to help others. Some of the new skills that you can learn are listed on the left. Check your favorites and then work with your 4-H leaders and parents to make a 4-H project plan of what you want to do and learn this year.



**LIFE SKILLS:** Responsibility

## LEADERSHIP COAT-OF-ARMS

To be a good 4-H leader, you must be able to recognize your own talents, abilities and needs. Use the activity below to learn more about yourself. Answer the questions by writing or drawing a picture in each section of the Leadership Coat-of-Arms.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Other than leadership, what is your main 4-H project?
2. Why do you want to be a leader?
3. What do you want to do professionally after you finish school?
4. What is your favorite hobby or free-time activity?
5. How many county 4-H events have you entered?
6. What activity have you enjoyed most as a 4-H member?
7. What is your goal in 4-H?
8. What can you do to help a younger 4-H member?
9. What adult or teen leader can you help?
10. Describe a time when you were the leader.

The diagram is a square divided into ten sections by a horizontal line, a vertical line, and two diagonal lines. The sections are numbered 1 through 10. Section 1 is the top-left triangle, 2 is the top-right triangle, 3 is the top-middle rectangle, 4 is the bottom-left triangle, 5 is the center diamond, 6 is the bottom-right triangle, 7 is the bottom-middle rectangle, 8 is the bottom-left triangle, 9 is the bottom-right triangle, and 10 is the bottom-middle rectangle. The diagram is decorated with blue and yellow scrollwork and a central blue and white figure.

**QUESTION:** Your Leadership Coat-of-Arms now tells you more about your skills, interests and abilities. What did you learn about yourself that surprised you? \_\_\_\_\_

# RISING TO THE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

There are eight important qualities that every leader needs to have. These are known as the “I’s” of leadership. Are you up for this leadership challenge? Look at the balloons below. Read each word and its definition. Then, answer the questions that follow.

**INTEREST:** helps you stay with a job until it is finished and done correctly.

Give an example of a recent project that you “stuck to” until it was completed.

-----  
-----  
-----

**INT\_LLIG\_NC\_:** has nothing to do with “being smart” in the school sense of the word; means the ability to understand a situation and then engage in the situation using appropriate behavior.

Which letter is missing?

\_\_\_\_\_

**INTERDEPENDENCE:** ability to work and accomplish things with other people.

Read the following statements. Check the one that best describes you.

- I like team work.  
 I don't like team work.

**INTEGRITY:** having respect for yourself and others.

Read the following statements and check all that apply.

- I respect myself.  
 I respect others.

**INITIATIVE:** a self-starter; meaning once you understand what you are supposed to do, you do it without putting it off.

Give an example of a recent project that you took the initiative to complete.

-----  
-----

**INVENTION:** ability to come up with new ideas. Leaders think situations through and come up with good suggestions.

List a good suggestion that you thought about recently.

-----  
-----

**\_NSP\_RAT\_ON:** the ability to encourage others to develop their own ideas. Good leaders show enthusiasm for all ideas that will help improve their club and community.

Which letter is missing?

\_\_\_\_\_

**INSIGHT:** means having the ability to analyze a problem and determine what is needed to correct it.

Can you identify a problem in which you were able to come up with the solution? If so, write it in the space below.

-----

## HOW DID YOU DO?

In how many balloons did you provide answers? Count the balloons, then circle the corresponding number below. Use the key below to determine how much you have risen to the leadership challenge.

2 BALLOONS = ★ ONE STAR 4-HER

6 BALLOONS = ★★ ★ THREE STAR 4-HER

4 BALLOONS = ★★ ★ TWO STAR 4-HER

8 BALLOONS = ★★ ★ ★ FOUR STAR 4-HER

# CHECKING GOOD 4-H LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTICS

Read the list of characteristics on the left. Which ones do you feel are the most important for a 4-H leader to have? Place a check mark next to the ones that you think are the most important. Then, read and follow the instructions above each of the yellow boxes.

- INTELLIGENCE
- SENSE OF HUMOR
- PHYSICAL HEALTH
- GOOD LOOKS
- INITIATIVE
- ORGANIZATIONAL ABILITY
- MONEY
- SPEAKING ABILITY
- KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBJECT
- RESPECT OF THE GROUP
- PATIENCE
- ENTHUSIASM
- COOPERATION
- UNDERSTANDING
- COMPUTER SKILLS
- ARROGANCE
- WORKS WELL WITH OTHERS

Of the characteristics you checked, which do you feel are the five most important? List your top five characteristics in the yellow box below.

Now think about the leadership characteristics you have that help you to be a good leader. List them in the yellow box below. You may include ones not in the list on your left.

Based on what you have learned, do you need to develop any additional leadership skills as you become a good 4-H leader? List the characteristics that you would like to improve on in the yellow box below.

## ACTIVITIES

- Organize/lead a Leadership Project Group.
- Create bulletin boards, an article for the school newspaper or flyers for your school to promote 4-H.
- Volunteer your leadership skills for special projects at school, church, 4-H and other organizations.
- Make a list of community leaders. Interview some of these leaders to learn more about leadership.
- Write an article for your local newspaper about a recent 4-H event.

## SERVICE IDEAS

- Serve as the leader of a community service group with other 4-H members.
- Volunteer your leadership skills for special projects at school, church, 4-H and other organizations.
- Plan a leadership “thank you” party for your 4-H leader/adult volunteers.
- Help another teen leader in your county.
- Help another teen leader at the county fair.
- Demonstrate good leadership skills at home by helping around the house or with younger siblings.

## RESOURCES

- School and public libraries
  - [www.mindtools.com](http://www.mindtools.com)
  - [www.nwlink.com](http://www.nwlink.com)
  - 4-H project leader/group
- The following Websites were used to create this activity sheet. To learn more visit:
- [www.utextension.utk.edu/4H/projects/leadership.htm](http://www.utextension.utk.edu/4H/projects/leadership.htm)
  - [www.n4hccs.org](http://www.n4hccs.org)
- Don't forget! For more ideas and info, contact your 4-H office.