**Shared Ideas for Getting Parents Involved**

(Information shared from agents, volunteers and parents)

Identify Tasks

* We have chore charts at county fair and some project meetings. We pin up small papers or sticky notes with things we need done (take out the trash, check waters, help a kid, etc.) and they can grab them off the board and then put them in a bucket when they are done. (Bernalillo County)
* Identify a task or purpose for the adults (Sandoval County)
* Identify specific task (being an assistant to help the 4-Her during zoom projects. (Rio Arriba county)
* Identify specific task with a specific time frame (Luna County)
* Identify specific task ahead of time.
* Parent interest survey (Grant County)

Inform

* It helps to have expectations and/or the role you’d like that parent to play already defined to increase transparency and communication. (McKinley County)
* Volunteers like to know what exactly they have to do and how long it is expected to take.

Invite

* Pick up the phone and personally ask the individual (Union County)
* Phone call and a direct discussion (McKinley County)
* Speak to a parent **in person** and find out a subject they are interested in or passionate about, this can usually lead to involvement. (Mora County)
* Pairing the parent with another volunteer with similar interests works. (Mora County)
* Spread out the tasks - same parents do everything (not only in 4-H)

Important

* Often people are willing to help, but they don't know what to do.  They also don't want to have the tasks an agent won't do dumped on them. (Luna County)
* One thing I really encourage with parents is to get involved for the benefit of their kids but also for themselves.  Most of my friendships of the last few years have been through volunteering with other parents. (Luna County)
* Chance to get to know the kids my boys hung out with as well as their parents.  (Luna County)
* You get to know the kids, and they were always welcome at my house. (Luna County)
* Volunteering not only helped the organization, it helped me have a better relationship with my kids. (Luna County)

Other Resources

* <https://extension.umaine.edu/plugged-in/program-volunteer-resources/4h/4-h-volunteer-handbook/table-of-contents/parent-involvement/>
* <https://www.harper.k-state.edu/4-h-youth-development/club-resources/documents/Parent_Involvement.pdf>
* [https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Documents/Volunteer IN 4-H Toolkit/Working Effectively with 4-H Parents PowerPoint.pdf](https://extension.purdue.edu/4h/Documents/Volunteer%20IN%204-H%20Toolkit/Working%20Effectively%20with%204-H%20Parents%20PowerPoint.pdf)