



**THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY**

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



# Parents Passion & Program

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# The Parent's Pledge to 4-H



- I pledge my **HEAD** to force ideas on others whether they are welcome or not, my **HEART** to meet my needs over the needs of others, my **HANDS** to do the work for my kids so they will be a positive reflections of me, and my **HEALTH** to self-righteous living because I know what is best for my club, my community, my country and my world.



# PARENTS.. Who are They?

- Mom & Dad
- Single Mom/Single Dad
- Step Mom/Step Dad
- Grandparents
- Aunts/Uncles
- Legal Guardians
- Foster Parents
- Friends of the Family



# What are parents?.....



Supporters

Guiders

Teachers

Friends

Disciplinarians

Role Models

Mentors

Money  
Buckets

Taxi Service

Counselors

Maid Service

Enablers

# PASSION...

*a strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement  
for something or about doing something*

# How are parents?

- Fun
- Coercive
- Encouraging
- Happy
- Exited/able
- Complainer
- Stubborn
- Opinionated
- Aggressive
- Rude
- Support System
- Pushy

# PASSION...

Why Do Parents Act Like They Do?

## The 4 A's of Motivation

- Affiliation
- Achievement
- Altruism
- Acceptance

It is not what you do for  
your children,  
but what you have taught  
them to do for themselves,  
that will make them  
successful human beings.

Ann Landers



# Affiliation

## Abusive Parent

*To be accepted as a 4-H'er even if it is through their child.*

*Example: The parent may not have been active in 4-H, so they will push the child to take part in all 4-H activities.*



# Achievement

## Competitive Parent

*The need to succeed—even if they have to bully their child into it.*

*Example: As a parent you showed steers in 4-H and you make your child show steers in 4-H even if they aren't interested.*





# Altruism

## Neglectful Parent

*The selfless idea that they can be all things to all people.*

*Example: A parent that tries to be a role model, a buddy and a disciplinarian but neglects the needs of their own child.*



# Acceptance

## Vicarious Parent

*The need to belong—even if it is through their child.*

*Example: A mother wearing the same clothes as her teenage daughter and going to the mall with her group of friends.*

# PROGRAM....

*A caring and supportive parent is one essential component of a positive youth development program.*

# Positives of Parental Involvement

## For Club Members

- Gain support and confidence from working with interested adult/parent.
- Participate with their parents in a common interest.
- Receive more individual attention and guidance.
- Youth mimic their parent's positive, enthusiastic attitudes.

## For the Parents

- *Get to know their children's friends.*
- *Make new friends and acquaintances within the community.*
- *Show love and concern for their children by maintaining an interest in their activities and helping them meet their goals.*
- *Help their children learn and grow.*
- *Share experiences with their children.*
- *Improve relationships with their children.*
- *Make a contribution to youth in the community.*

## For Club Leaders/Volunteers

- *Can delegate jobs to responsible parents to allow time for development of additional club activities.*
- *More effective reach of each member with a positive adult influence.*
- *A fresh set of eyes to help the club grow and succeed for many more years to come.*

## For 4-H Clubs

- Strengthened, larger and more active club.

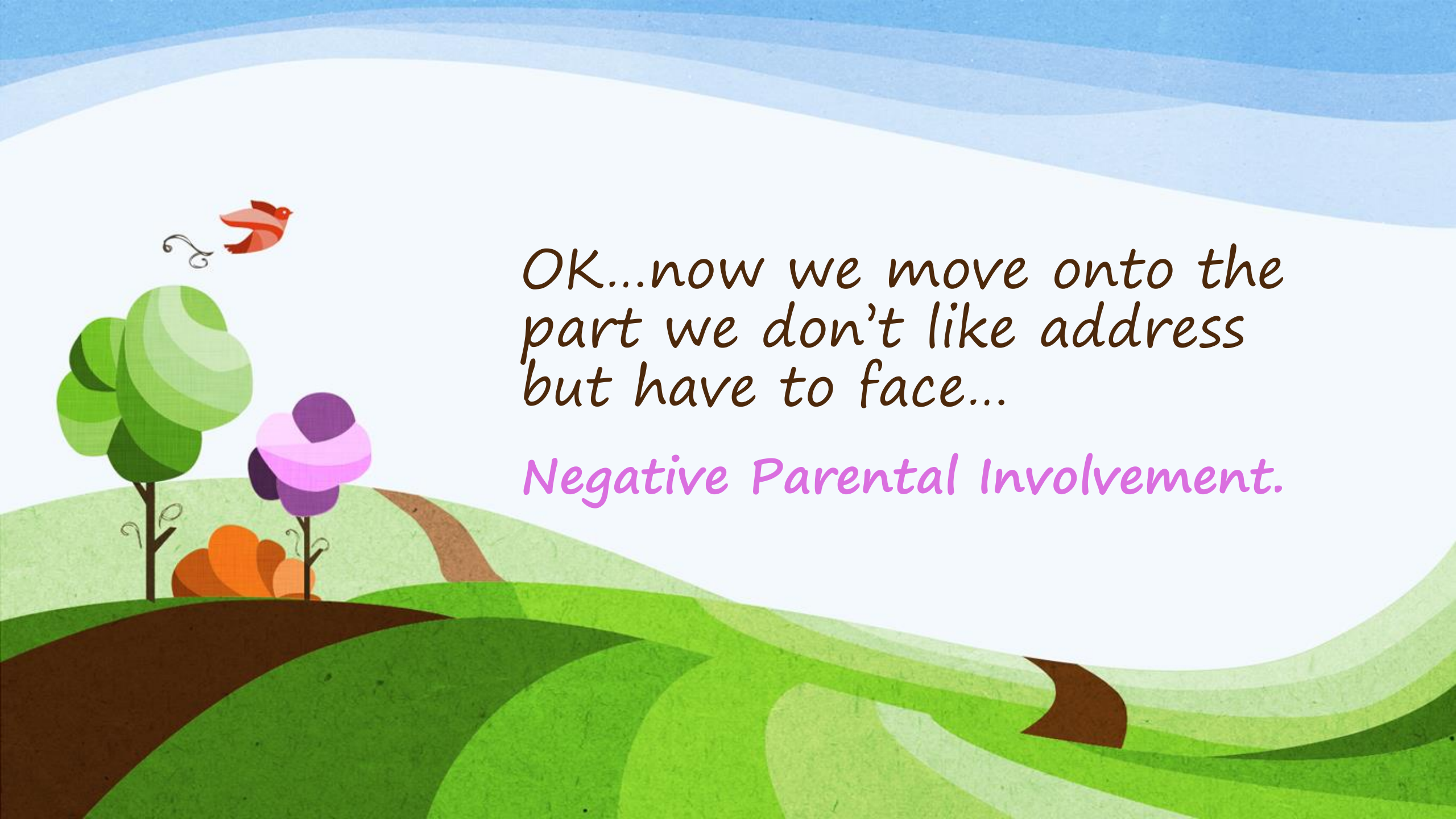
Favorable Attitudes

+ Parent Interest

+ Active Parent Cooperation

= Successful 4-H Clubs





*OK...now we move onto the  
part we don't like address  
but have to face...*

*Negative Parental Involvement.*

# Negatives of Parental Involvement

√ For Members

√ For Parents

√ For Leaders/Volunteers

√ For Clubs

# For Members

- *Embarrassing*
- *Discouraging*
- *Disappointed in how their parents act*
- *Fed-up*
- *Annoyed*
- *Want to quit/drop out*
- *Lose of interest*



# For Parents

- Brings shame to self
- Brings shame to child
- Loses creditability with children, volunteers and community
- Embarrassment to self
- Make them look little or overbearing



# For *Leaders/Volunteers*

- *More of a hindrance than help*
- *Distracting*
- *Discouraging*
- *Causes Stress*
- *Makes them rethink about their role as a volunteer*



## For Clubs

- *Embarrassment*
- *Causes Stress*
- *Members Drop-Out*
- *Little involvement of members and other parents*
- *Adult-domination creates unwelcoming environments (no sharing of ideas, etc.)*



# Involving Parents

## √Communicate

- \*Parent Meetings
- \*Parent Guide
- \*Expectations
- \*Resources
- \*Express need for assistance

## √Educate

- \*Parent Interest Survey
- \*ASK
- \*Interact with them

# √ Involve where needed

\*Official and Unofficial

# √ Qualifications Needed

\*Commitment to 4-H

\*Interest in youth

\*Time & Willingness to follow through

\*Ability to assist but allow youth to do their own work

\*Other?



# Areas for Parent Involvement

## \*Volunteer Roles Requiring Volunteer Screening\*

- 4-H Club or 4-H Organizational Leader
- 4-H Project Leader
- Cloverbud Advisor

## \*Assisting but No Volunteer Screening Required\*

- 1 day volunteers—assisting with fundraisers, booths, refreshments within the club.
- Project Judging
- Demonstrations
- Organizing/leading workshops, clinics and other educational activities.

# Redirecting Parents

LET'S PRACTICE!!!!!!

- ◇The VICARIOUS Parent
- ◇The NEGLECTFUL Parent
- ◇The COMPETITIVE Parent
- ◇OTHERS?

# Lets Us Remember the True Parent's Pledge....



I pledge my...

**HEAD** to give my child the information I can, to help him/her see things clearly and to make wise decisions.

**HEART** to encourage and support my child no matter whether he/she has successes or disappointments.

**HANDS** to help my child's club; if I cannot be a volunteer, I can help in many equally important ways.

**HEALTH** to keep my child strong and well for a better world through 4-H, for my child's club, our community, our country, and our world.

Remember the real purpose of 4-H is to develop your members into productive, contributing citizens as adults.



4-H

## Resources:

- [www.joe.org/joe/2005august/tt4.php](http://www.joe.org/joe/2005august/tt4.php) “An Affirmative Approach to Parental Involvement in Youth Programs”; Alayne Torretta, County 4-H Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Warren County and Laura Bovitz, County 4-H Agent, Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Middlesex County, New Jersey.
- Fajan, Debbie; University of Vermont Extension 4-H; “Positive Parental Involvement in 4-H Youth Programming.
- Purdue University Extension “4: Working Effectively with 4-H Parents” Lesson Plan, VolunteerIN 4-H Toolkit for Success