4-H COACH CERTIFICATION

4-H policy requires that all adults working with and training youth enrolled in 4-H must be an official, approved 4-H volunteer in the county in which that adult is working with the youth, in the county of membership for those youth. This includes 4-H coaches of CDE contests.

To become an official 4-H volunteer the adult must:

- Complete the Indiana 4-H volunteer application
- Successfully complete the approved screening process
- Annually file a signed Adult Behavioral Expectations form with the county Extension Office

If a 4-H unit/school spans across multiple counties, then the adult volunteer/coach must be approved as a 4-H adult volunteer in one of those counties.

Any person who is not already an official 4-H volunteer and wishes to coach a 4-H team in any of the CDE contests should contact their county Extension Educator and request information about the 4-H Adult Volunteer application and screening process.

Coaches of 4-H teams that cannot be verified as being an approved 4-H adult volunteer will not be able to participate in the state CDE contests and the team will be disqualified prior to the contest.

Teachers as coaches
We know that school teachers have gone through a screening process most likely through their school; however, this process is not on our records and may not comply with the adult volunteer screening process as adopted by Purdue University’s Board of Trustees. Even when a school teacher is working with 4-H members as part of their regular school assignment, it is important for everyone to understand that they are essentially working in a dual role when designating their judging team as 4-H. When this happens, that teacher/coach is not only complying with their school policies and procedures, but also the policies and procedures of Indiana 4-H and Purdue University.