

## **POEMS, QUOTES AND SONGS TO CELEBRATE VOLUNTEERISM -- Niki Nestor McNeely**

[Authors of the following poems, quotes and songs are unknown. If anyone can identify the author(s) of a particular item, they should contact the web site so that a proper acknowledgment of authorship can be added.]

### **Ode To A Volunteer**

Many will be shocked to find  
When the day of judgement nears  
That there's a special place in  
Heaven set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with big recliners,  
Satin couches and footstools  
Where there's no committee chair  
No group leaders or carpools.

Telephone lists will be outlawed  
But a finger snap will bring  
Cool drinks and gourmet dinners,  
And rare treats fit for a king.

You ask,  
Who'll serve the privileged few  
And work for all they're worth?  
Why, those who reaped benefits  
And not once volunteered on earth.

- Author Unknown

### **Leadership**

Leadership poses the problems of persistently prodding pokey persons to perform prodigious projects, promote personal performance, pacify petulant people, and prevent parasitic practice and passive performance and partisan politics while pursuing perpetual progress in projects, public and physical; plus postponing piscatorial pastimes, picayunish pleasures, and parental pleasantries -- to perpetuate participation in planned programs -- (piddling or planetesimal) procreating productivity and profuse, potentials profound in proportion to participation. Prolific production proposes public permanence and prevents paralysis of personnel -- pertinent perhaps prohibitively to progress. To summarize -- leadership prods pooped people to produce.

### **Thoughts Of A 4-H Member**

"Guess I'm not very good in 4-H. This was my first year, and I didn't seem to do too well. The kids like me OK, but the leaders and junior leaders seem to like the other kids better."

"Seems like the leaders don't think you know anything unless you get an A at the fair and have perfect writing and spotless paper on your records ... guess they don't understand about little sisters and writing with crayons." "Last week, I was supposed to give a demonstration at our meeting. Boy, was I scared! I was making brownies. I was kind a afraid at first, but then I started telling about the day I made some that had dog hair in them. The other kids enjoyed hearing about it, and I thought they'd learn to be careful like I did ... but Susie, our junior leader, gave me a dirty look so then I just read from the project book. Afterwards, Susie said I should have used glass bowls and trays and posters and things like that. Guess you just about have to be perfect to be a good 4-H member. I wish Susie had helped me before I gave the demonstration and showed me how not to be afraid."

"We had a special achievement program for our 4-H Club. I'm really good in art and wanted to help decorate ..., but this group of girls who are the president's friends wanted to do that. So I had to address the invitations while Steve, another junior leader, kept checking on how we were doing and telling us to hurry."

"Last week we had a 4-H tour. Since it was several miles away, I needed a ride. Mr. Kent, our 4-H leader, finally gave me a ride, but he didn't seem very happy. Guess he thought Mom or Dad should have taken me. I wish they would ..., but they don't think much of 4-H. The kids who have parents who are 4-H leaders are lucky."

"I don't know if I'll stay in 4-H or not. I just don't seem to very good. When someone explains what I'm supposed to do, and reminds me of the meetings, I usually try to do it... And some of my friends from school seem to have a lot of fun on those afternoons that we have our 4-H meetings. Since I don't live on a farm like some of the kids, may be I should just forget it. Wonder if anyone will miss me?"

- Author Unknown

(Found in the Ohio 4-H Newsletter from Ashland County "Clover Courier", June 1992. It was suggested that this special story be shared with 4-H groups as they do their program evaluations.)

### **4-H Leader's Creed**

I BELIEVE:

...The 4-H member is more important than the 4-H project.

...Learning how to do the project is more important than the project itself.

...4-H'ers should be their own best exhibits.

...No award is worth sacrificing the reputation of a member or a leader.

...Competition should be given no more emphasis than other fundamentals of 4-H work.

...Enthusiasm is caught, not taught.

...To learn by doing is fundamental in any sound educational program and is characteristic of the 4-H program.

...Generally speaking, there is more than one good way to do most things.

...Every 4-H member needs to be noticed, to feel important, to win and be praised (leaders, too).

...Our job as leader is to teach 4-H members How to think, not What to think.

Source: anonymous

### **Volunteer's 4-H Pledge**

I pledge my head to give children the information I can, to help them see things clearly and to make wise decisions.

I pledge my heart to encourage and support children no matter whether they have success or disappointments.

I pledge my hands to help children's groups; if I cannot be a leader, I can help in many equally important ways.

I pledge my health to keep children strong and well for a better world through 4-H, for children's groups, our community, our country and our world.

adapted from Washington 4-H Volunteer's Leadership Handbook.

sent by: mary lee wood, idaho

## **4-H Leaders**

Somewhere between the sternness of a parent and the comradeship of a pal is that mysterious creature we call a 4-H Leader.

These leaders come in all shapes and sizes, and may be male or female. But they all have one thing in common - a glorious twinkle in their eyes!

4-H Leaders are found everywhere - at judging contests, fairs, square dances, and talent shows. They always are preparing for, sitting through, participating in, or recuperating from a meeting of some kind.

They are tireless consumers of muffins, expert at taking knots out of thread, peerless coaches, and spend hours on the telephone.

A 4-H Leader is many things - an artist making a float for the Fourth of July, a doctor prescribing for an underfed calf, a counselor at camp, a lawyer filling out reports, and a shoulder to cry on when that dress just won't fit. Nobody else is so early to rise and so late to get home at night. Nobody else has so much fun with so many boys and girls.

We sometimes forget them, but we can't do without them. They receive no salary, but we can never repay them.

They are angels in aprons, saints in straw hats. Their only reward is the love of the kids and the respect of the community. But when they look around them at the skills they've taught, and the youth they've built, there's an inner voice from somewhere that says, "Well done."

Author Unknown

## **VOLUNTEER AND GIVING QUOTES**

*The purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others.*

--Albert Schweitzer

A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life are based on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving.

--Albert Einstein

This is our special duty, that if anyone specially needs our help, we should give him such help to the utmost of our power.

--Cicero

Service is the rent you pay for room on this earth.

--Shirley Chisholm

When you cease to make a contribution, you begin to die.

--Eleanor Roosevelt

We are here on earth to do good to others. What the others are here for, I don't know.

--W.H. Auden

Just as the wave cannot exist for itself, but is ever a part of the heaving surface of the ocean, so must I never live my life for itself, but always in the experience which is going on around me. It is an uncomfortable doctrine which the true ethics whisper into my ear: You are happy, they say therefore you are called upon to give much.

--Albert Schweitzer

You have not done enough, you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something to contribute.

--Dag Hammarskjold

Life is mostly froth and bubble, Two things stand like stone, kindness in another's trouble, courage in your own.

--Adam Lindsay Gordon, "*Ye Wearie Wayfarer*" 1833-1870

To keep a lamp burning we have to keep putting oil in it.

--Mother Teresa

Wisdom is the power that enables us to use knowledge for the benefit of ourselves and others.

--Thomas J. Watson

If my hands are fully occupied in holding onto something, I can neither give nor receive.

--Dorothee Solle

We are rich only through what we give, and poor only through what we refuse.

--Anne-Sophie Swetchine 1869

by Mary Ellen Aamot, State 4-H Youth Development Specialist, South Dakota, used with permission from *We Give Love -- Giving is Such a Selfish Thing: Notes and Quotes on the Joys of Heartfelt Service* by John-Roger & Peter McWilliams. Prelude Press, Inc. 1993.