



## Volunteer Learning Modules: Working with Youth Part 2

### Overview

This module provides volunteers with knowledge around the topics of the experiential learning model and youth-adult partnerships

### Section 1: The Experiential Learning Model

The Experiential Learning Model includes five specific steps:

- **Experience:** youth do an activity
- **Share:** youth describe their experience; often we can use the five sense to elaborate on the experience
- **Process:** youth relate the experience to life skills, goals, and/or objectives
- **Generalize:** youth make a connection between their experience and the world around them; they create relationships, find similarities and differences
- **Apply:** youth apply what they learned throughout the experience to other situations or experiences in their lives; often this is described by using identified life skills

Implementing the Experiential Learning Model in 4-H Programming:

This is a four-part series of MSU Extension News articles on using the ELM. The series includes links to other resources on the subject.

- Part 1: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing\\_the\\_experiential\\_learning\\_model\\_in\\_4-h\\_programming\\_part\\_1](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing_the_experiential_learning_model_in_4-h_programming_part_1)
- Part 2: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing\\_the\\_experiential\\_learning\\_model\\_in\\_4-h\\_programming\\_part\\_two/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing_the_experiential_learning_model_in_4-h_programming_part_two/)
- Part 3: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing\\_the\\_experiential\\_learning\\_model\\_in\\_4-h\\_programming\\_part\\_3/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing_the_experiential_learning_model_in_4-h_programming_part_3/)
- Part 4: [https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing\\_the\\_experiential\\_learning\\_model\\_in\\_4-h\\_programming\\_part\\_4](https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/implementing_the_experiential_learning_model_in_4-h_programming_part_4)

Resources:

- Experiential Learning Model: [https://train.msue.msu.edu/vls/working-with-youth/story\\_content/external\\_files/ELM%20Diagram.pdf](https://train.msue.msu.edu/vls/working-with-youth/story_content/external_files/ELM%20Diagram.pdf)
- Experiential Learning Processing Questions: [https://train.msue.msu.edu/vls/working-with-youth/story\\_content/external\\_files/ELM%20Questions.pdf](https://train.msue.msu.edu/vls/working-with-youth/story_content/external_files/ELM%20Questions.pdf)
- Hendricks, P. (1998). *Developing youth curriculum using the targeting life skills model*, p. 3. Ames: Iowa State University. Retrieved from <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4H/skls.eval.htm>
- University of Colorado Denver (Experiential Learning Center). (n.d.). *What is experiential learning?* Retrieved from <http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/ExperientialLearning/about/Pages/WhatisExperientialLearning.aspx>

**To contact an expert in your area, visit [extension.msu.edu/experts](http://extension.msu.edu/experts) or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)**

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## Section 2: Youth Adult Partnerships

Michigan 4-H Youth Development programs believes that we are not just building the leaders of tomorrow—we also are building leaders who are capable of leading today. Young people have the power to change the world like no other group can. They have innovative ideas, exuberant energy, and are ready to take on responsibility and leadership roles with adult allies.

Some basic techniques you can use to help ensure that your club or groups youth adult partnership succeeds include:

- Giving youth time to talk—don't always jump in with the first comment or decision
- Setting up meeting spaces strategically to encourage youth involvement
- Spending time building relationships through team building activities
- Giving youth permission to use first names
- Working on group collaborations
- Establishing clear goals
- Allowing youth to take on meaningful roles

## Support

If staff, volunteer applicants, or current volunteers need additional assistance with learning modules they should contact a Volunteer Excellence Support Team (VEST) member or e-mail [msue.msuvol@msu.edu](mailto:msue.msuvol@msu.edu) using the subject "Learning Module Assistance Needed."