



# Helping Youth Learn from Experience

4-H experiences are implemented through use of the Experiential Learning Model. This model is a powerful approach for learning life skills that emphasizes:

- (1) hands-on experiences,
- (2) reflecting on those experiences through discussion, and
- (3) applying the knowledge gained to other "real life" situations.

Having a basic understanding of this model will help you in your role as a leader and mentor with youth. It will help you not only share your know-how and skills, but also help you develop important life skills like making decisions, communicating with others and teamwork. The experiential learning process engages the youth in their project, encourages them to think more, work harder and ultimately learn more thoroughly than just showing or telling.

The model below outlines the five steps of the experiential learning cycle and highlights probing questions that could be used along the way to deepen the learning taking place at each phase.

