Professional Development Planning Tool

What Being a 4-H Professional Means: Your Professional Purpose Statement

What are your core values and goals for your career? What are your talents and strengths? What do you want to achieve through your work? How do you hope to make a difference in the world? How do these align with the 4-H Values, Mission, and Vision? Develop your own professional purpose statement.

Considering Future Growth: Your Learning Plan

Learning Outcomes

What are your professional development goals? Consider outcomes around:

- Understanding – thinking about and using knowledge gained
- Emotion – interests, attitudes, motivation
- Identity – self and group
- Practices – habits of mind to create and use understanding. Includes intellectual, social, and communication
- Contribution – positively impacting self and community through authentic participation
Skill Development and Learning Pathways

What do you need to grow as a 4-H Professional and fulfill your professional purpose? What opportunities and resources already exist and where can you find them? Which need to be found or created? Consider resources in Extension and 4-H and beyond, in the greater youth development and education fields.

Relationships

Who are your mentors? Who do you go to for answers to questions, access to resources, or ideas for programs? How might you strengthen these relationships?

Who would you like to work more closely with? How might you make new connections?

How do you stay connected with mentors and colleagues? What communication strategies and tools do you use? What professional organizations are you part of or could you join? What online networks?
Celebrate the Journey

How do you share your work with the community?

How do you reflect on and record your professional development journey and accomplishments?

How do you know you are successful in your work? Where can you get effective feedback? What kind of recognition is the most meaningful for you?