

SPIN Volunteer Quick Guide to Mastery

Mastery is at the heart of 4-H SPIN clubs. Young people demonstrate mastery when they are able to competently use new knowledge and skills in real-world situations. As a SPIN volunteer your goal is to help the members in your SPIN club master the knowledge and skills they need.

Best Practices for Mastery	Ways Volunteers Can Promote Mastery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people learn best through hands-on learning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan learning activities that actively engage them in learning – build, create, explore, make, discover, test, plan, cut, estimate, experience, measure, draw, etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When young people successfully solve problems or meet a challenge, they develop confidence in themselves – they believe they are capable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present them with a challenge or problem to solve. Encourage and support them, but allow them to discover the solution.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people demonstrate leadership skills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide leadership opportunities such as, leading an activity, helping others who need assistance, or planning a family event to showcase what members have learned.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people demonstrate their mastery to others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for members to share what they have learned, created, and mastered at a family event, competition, or community gathering.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people learn from their mistakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When things don't work out as planned, talk with the young person and ask what s/he thinks went wrong, what s/he could do differently, and how to avoid the mistake in the future. Allow the young person to reflect on the experience, share his/her thoughts, and identify a solution.

Adapted with permission from University of Illinois Cooperative Extension.

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