

SPIN Volunteer Quick Guide to PYD

4-H is built on a foundation of Positive Youth Development (PYD)

Positive youth development helps young people become competent, confident, connected, caring people of character.

4-H helps young people develop leadership skills and a sense of responsibility. Through 4-H, they gain confidence and skills. 4-H prepares them for their future.

That kind of impact doesn't happen by chance. 4-H volunteers and programs work to provide elements of Positive Youth Development called **BIG M**. Young people need

- **B**elonging
- **I**ndependence
- **G**enerosity
- **M**astery

Young people want to feel like they belong. To develop a sense of **Belonging**, they need a safe emotional and physical environment. And they need a positive relationship with a caring adult. That's where you come in as a SPIN volunteer.

Independence allows young people to dream of a bright future and have the confidence that they can make that happen.

A spirit of **Generosity** allows youth to serve others and make their community a better place to live.

Mastery is especially important for SPIN clubs. Young people join SPIN clubs because they want to learn about a topic and develop new skills. SPIN volunteers help young people achieve Mastery.

BIG M is an important part of 4-H. It's an important part of the work you will do as a SPIN volunteer.

Adapted with permission from University of Illinois Cooperative Extension.

The University of Maine and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating with Cooperative Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

The University of Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veteran's status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies: Director, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 North Stevens Hall, 207.581.1226.