

## Orientation for New Council Members

Education that meets the high-priority needs of local residents is the foundation of extension, and county extension councils play a vital role in meeting these educational priorities. County extension councils are statutorily created to work with the University of Missouri in carrying out the local extension program (*Sections 262:550 to 262:620, Revised Statutes of Missouri*). This module will assist new council members in understanding:

- Their role as a county extension council member
- The county extension council's relationship with the University.



### Agenda

1. **Begin with an ice-breaker activity.** (10 minutes)

Research and experience show that groups work together better if members have time to get to know one another and build trust. An ice-breaker or warm-up activity can help council members learn about their colleagues and gain confidence in their role.

2. **Present the “Orientation for New Council Members” training module.** (15 minutes) Deliver PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes.

3. **Distribute and review module materials.** (20 minutes) Discuss how your county council is organized and works with local extension specialists serving the county.

4. **Lead activity.** (20 minutes)



### Activity

Lead activity. (20 minutes)

1) Ask participants to complete the following statements:

I joined the extension council because ...

During my term as a council member, I hope to accomplish ...

2) Write responses on newsprint and review responses.

3) Ask participants to identify commonalities and discuss how those commonalities can benefit the people they represent.

## TRAINER NOTES



### Facilitator Tips

The following tips can assist trainers and new council members in getting the most out of the “*Orientation for New Council Members*” training module:

1. Determine who will be the presenter(s) (council member, specialist, county program director).
2. Review “Orientation for New Council Members” handout and included resources, council activity, additional resources and PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes. Note: The PowerPoint presentation includes places for local information.
3. Prepare materials needed for council activity.
4. Schedule a time for new council member orientation using the “Orientation for New Council Members” module, and involve the Regional Council Leadership Team as needed.



### Supplies

**What is needed?** (Note: Online resources may be used if Internet access is available.)

- “Orientation for New Council Members” PowerPoint presentation with local information added
- Computer, projector and screen
- Copies of “Orientation for New Council Members” handout for participants and “Additional Resources” Introduction to the County Extension Council — Council Handout Missouri Council Leadership Development: 21 2 st Century Programs, Governance and Membership 2/2004  
<http://extension.missouri.edu/extcouncil/training/>
- Newsprint, markers, easel and masking tape
- Ice-breaker activity
- Copies of:
  - ⌘ Council bylaws
  - ⌘ County extension center webpage
  - ⌘ Missouri County Extension Council webpage  
(<http://extension.missouri.edu/extcouncil>)