



# ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

## ***April: Club Manager's Checklist***

- Discuss District Events (ie: 4-H Round-up, Share the Fun, Horse Quiz Bowl, Consumer Decision Making, Fashion Show – these contests will vary by District)
- Nominate club officers and leaders
- Promote District Leadership Lab
- Announce District Horse Show entry deadline
- Recognize participants/winners in recent County and District events and stock shows
- County Council Delegates give report from meeting
- Plan and implement Community Service Projects

### **After Meeting**

- Turn in attendance sheet & report



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## *April: Recreation*

### STOP THE MUSIC

**Equipment:**

Chairs (1 less than the number in the group), music

**Challenge:**

Set up the meeting room in your favorite style with extra space around each chair. Set the room with enough chairs for everyone less one. Have participants walk around the room while you play up-beat music. After some time, stop the music. Participants should now all scramble for chairs. The lucky person left standing moves to the side and takes a chair with him. Continue playing until there is only one person left.

**Refreshment:**

Lemonade



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## ***April: Community Service***

- Distribute flag etiquette information to club and community members.  
<http://www.ushistory.org/betsy/flagetiq.html>  
<http://www.usflag.org/index.html>
- In partnership with a local veterans, or military group, sponsor a flag burning ceremony for damaged US Flags.  
<http://www.flagkeepers.org/Home.asp>  
<http://www.flagkeepers.org/FlagBurningCeremony.asp>
- Write a letter to a former 4-Her or 4-H family member in the military. This following site was started by a young man to share ways to write letters of support to US military personnel. <http://www.supportusamilitary.org/>
- References for Community Service Activities:  
Students in Service to America (SISTA): A Guidebook for Engaging America's Students in a Lifelong Habit of Service. Corporation for National and Community Service, U.S. Department of Education, Points of Light Foundation, and USA Freedom Corps, 2002. <http://www.studentsinservicetoamerica.org/>  
[http://www.studentsinservicetoamerica.org/tools\\_resources/started.html](http://www.studentsinservicetoamerica.org/tools_resources/started.html)



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## ***April: Flag Ceremony***

# **I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice. I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world. Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud. When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer. I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, and Shiloh. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam, and Okinawa. The people of Korea, Vietnam and Kuwait know me as a banner of freedom.

I was there. I led my troops. I was dirty, battleworn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud. I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon. I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours, but my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, when I am flown at half-mast to honor my countrymen, when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter, know that I embrace them with compassion and honor as I pay tribute to their service to America.

My name is Old Glory. Long may I wave.



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## ***April: Ice Breaker***

### **TAKE AS MUCH AS YOU THINK YOU'LL NEED**

Ice Breaker

To begin, the leader passes around the bowl of M & M's or the roll of toilet paper. Each person is given the instructions to "Take as much as you think you will need." No further instructions are given until each person has received their M & M's. Once everyone has some, the first person begins by telling one thing about himself for each M & M or piece of toilet paper they have taken. When the first person has finished, you move on to the next person in the group. As an interesting twist, and to be sure that you find out some different information on each person, you may give each color Skittles a different meaning or category.

We suggest the following: (example using Skittles)

Red: personal information (name, major, school, age)

Yellow: family information (parents, brothers, sisters, pets)

Orange: free category- say something fun about yourself or don't say anything

Green: dating experience (favorite date, worst date, significant others)

Purple: hobbies, other interests (sports, dancing, talents)

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SOAR/Lead/Icebreak.html>



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## *April: Inspiration and More*

### LESSONS FROM GEESE

**FACT:** As each goose flaps its wings it creates an “uplift” for the birds that follows. By flying in a V formation, the whole flock adds 71% greater flying range than if each bird flew alone.

People who share a common direction and sense a community can get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust of one another.

**FACT:** When a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird in front of it.

If we have as much sense as a goose we stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.

**FACT:** When the lead goose tires, it rotates back into the formation and another goose flies to the point position.

It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks and sharing leadership. As with geese, people are interdependent on each others skills, capabilities and unique arrangements of gifts, talents or resources.

**FACT:** The geese flying in formation honk to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups where there is encouragement, the production is much greater. The power of encouragement is the quality of honking we seek.

**FACT:** When a goose gets sick, wounded or shot down, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with it until it dies or is able to fly again. Then they launch out with another formation or catch up with the flock.

If we have as much sense as geese, we will stand by each other in difficult times as well as when we are strong.



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## ***April: Program Idea***

In April, we celebrate National Volunteer Week. This is a time where we recognize and honor the many volunteers that help make the 4-H program happen. In fact, volunteers are the foundation of the Texas 4-H Program. At your club meeting, honor your 4-H volunteers. You could even have a banquet or formal refreshment reception, hosted by your 4-H members, to honor and thank the many adults who give of their time to help your 4-H club.

April also contains a celebration of our county governments during County Government Week. Invite a county official (county commissioner, county judge) to talk to your 4-H club about the county government process. This is also a great opportunity to show appreciation to your county commissioners for providing funds for your county's Extension office staff, in turn supporting the 4-H program. Talking about a citizen's right and responsibility to vote, in addition to the voting and election process, is also a good teaching topic for older 4-H members.