



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

February: Club Manager's Checklist

- Enroll new 4-H members and leaders.
- Discuss District entry deadlines (ie: 4-H Round-up, Share the Fun, Horse Quiz Bowl,
- Discuss upcoming County events (Fashion Show, Judging etc. contests will vary by district)
- Recognize participants/winners in recent County and District events and stock shows
- County Council Delegate give report from meeting
- Plan and implement Community Service Projects

After Meeting

- Turn in attendance sheets & reports
- Turn in new 4-H member and leader enrollment forms

Celebrate the Texas 4-H Centennial!

This year marks the 100 anniversary of Texas th 4-H and we will be celebrating all year! Make a point to celebrate the Centennial each month! An idea or two be provided on each Club Manager's Checklist.

- Make a 4-H Centennial table tents or signs with trivia questions and other 4-H history. Collaborate with local restaurants for them to use table tents during the month to promote the Centennial.
- Create a 4-H Centennial song or rap.



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February: Recreation

KNOTS AND GIANT KNOT

Number of Players:

5 to 10 for one small Knot, although if there are 12 or more players, you can make two groups. Up to 50 can play Giant Knot.

When to Play the Game:

A good opening game for a small group of adults. Teens and children may be resistant to the touching and close physical proximity of other players. However, after a few games when young players relax a bit, this is a good preliminary trust activity.

Safety Instructions:

Remind players that if they start to feel their wrists or arms getting twisted they need not maintain a hand clasp, but merely need to keep touching. Also, remind everyone that if they are being hurt, they can simply say, "Stop," and everyone will stop, thereby avoiding a painful situation.

Description of Game:

Here is a good metaphor for representing a group that is experiencing complications. We literally represent this by getting knotted up physically.

A circle of players starts by standing close together facing in. They put their hands in a clump on top of one another in the middle and start mingling them. Everyone can then close their eyes and, when told, find two hands to clasp. Upon opening their eyes, check to see that all players have two different hands. To add challenge, see that players do not keep the hand of a person next to them. Players, without losing contact by hand, although not necessarily with a tight grip, try to untangle into a circle. Facing in or out does not matter.

If the knot is insoluble, allow the players to pick one grip to let go and reconnect in a better way. Then the players can see if they can unwind the knot. If not, have the group choose another grip to undo and redo. They can continue in this manner until the knot is solved. This way, there is no knot that cannot be unwound. After doing this with a group, everyone will feel a lot more comfortable with one another.



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February: Community Service

- If weather permits, host a dog walk in a local park.
- Coordinate a photo pet session, charging a minimal fee. Donate the proceeds to the local animal shelter.
- Conduct a collection of pet food, supplies and newspapers to donate to the local animal shelter.



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February: Flag Ceremony

HISTORY OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The original Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy. It was first given wide publicity through the official program of the National Public Schools Celebration of Columbus Day which was printed in The Youth's Companion of September 8, 1892, and at the same time sent out in leaflet form to schools throughout the country. School children first recited the Pledge of Allegiance this way:

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

"The flag of the United States" replaced the words "my Flag" in 1923 because some foreign-born people might have in mind the flag of the country of their birth instead of the United States flag. A year later, "of America" was added after "United States."

No form of the Pledge received official recognition by Congress until June 22, 1942, when the Pledge was formally included in the U.S. Flag Code. The official name of The Pledge of Allegiance was adopted in 1945. The last change in language came on Flag Day 1954, when Congress passed a law, which added the words "under God" after "one nation."

Originally, the pledge was said with the right hand in the so-called "Bellamy Salute," with the right hand resting first outward from the chest, then the arm extending out from the body. Once Hitler came to power in Europe, some Americans were concerned that this position of the arm and hand resembled the Nazi or Fascist salute. In 1942 Congress also established the current practice of rendering the pledge with the right hand over the heart.

The Flag Code specifies that any future changes to the pledge would have to be with the consent of the President.

Source: http://www.legion.org/?section=our_flag&subsection=flag_history&content=flag_history



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February: Ice Breaker

BODY SCULPTURE

Purpose: To develop listening, collaboration, and communication skills

In this activity, children try to recreate a pose by describing it to a blind-folded person.

Divide the participants into groups of three. Each group will include three roles: the artist, the sculpture, and the clay. Explain that the goal of the artist is to recreate the sculpture by molding the clay using only their instructions to guide the clay.

The person playing the role of the clay is blindfolded and stands behind the artist. The team member playing the sculpture stands in front of the artist and strikes a pose. The sculpture should choose a position they'll be able to hold for several minutes. The artist then describes the sculpture to the clay, and the clay tries to duplicate the pose. The clay may ask questions, but the artist cannot look at the clay until they both agree that they are finished.

Repeat the activity so everyone gets a chance to play each role. Discuss what was a help or hindrance in communicating during this activity.

(Shalaway, 1998)



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February: Inspiration and More

Children have never been good at listening to elders, but they have never failed to imitate them.

Fun Fact Trivia:

What town in Texas was Dr Pepper invented?

Waco

What year was Dr Pepper invented?

1885

In what Texas town is the original recipe of Dr Pepper still made which uses pure sugar cane instead of processed sugar?

Dublin



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February: Program Idea

The 4-H Photography project usually takes place in the Spring with State photography entries due in April. Utilize this meeting to create awareness about the photography project as well as celebrate American History month by collecting historical photos and information on your 4-H Club. Program ideas include:

- Have a local photographer do a program for the group.
- Have 4-H members bring photos they have recently taken and have a “mock judging” after the photographer’s presentation. The photographer can give each member tips and ideas for taking better photos.
- Create a club time capsule or historical scrapbook with club memorabilia and photos.
- Have a 4-H alumni in your county come talk about what 4-H was like when they were in 4-H. They might have photographs and memorabilia they would like to include in the time capsule or scrapbook.