



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

October: Club Manger's Checklist

- Have new members and leaders complete enrollment forms and collect (OR assist families in getting enrolled on 4-H Connect)
- Introduce new members
- Celebrate National 4-H Week and Club promotion ideas (first full week in October)
- Remind 4-H club of the major show lamb and goat exhibitors county validation time/ location/date
- Distribute County Food Show Information
- Discuss upcoming contests (ie: 4-H Round-up, Share the Fun, Quiz Bowls, Consumer Decision Making – these contests will vary by District)
- County Council Delegate give report from meeting
- Appoint new leaders for new project areas (Leader needs to be enrolled and approved by the County Extension Office)
- Plan and implement Community Service Projects

After Meeting

- Turn in all member/leader forms (if applicable)
- Turn in monthly attendance sheet & reports (OR report on 4-H Connect Club Manager Login Site)

Cultivating Children of Character

If you don't have enemies, you don't have character.

— Paul Newman, American actor (b. 1925)

Looking for some character building experiences with a national connection? Check out these ideas at:

<http://www.goodcharacter.com/Opportunities.html>



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October: Recreation

Group Benefits

Concept:

No one individual knows everything. Some people might think and act like they do, but in reality everyone is experienced in different areas due to their background, heritage, interests and abilities. When we look at a community we will see a melting of those experiences reflected in the values of that community. Individuals influence those groups to which they belong and then those groups influence the communities as a whole. Each group may add something different. Without each group's contribution, communities and the workplace would lose the richness that comes with diversity. Working together to produce a thriving community, profitable product or a successful concept happens when we accept not just the contributions of one or many people. A group can improve their work through the use of synergy, while an individual must use more energy to get the same result.

Time Estimate:

12 minutes plus discussion time

Materials Needed:

- A pen or pencil for each team of four
- A piece of paper for each team of four
- A watch with a second hand

Activity:

Divide your group into teams of four and have them sit in a circle. Give each team a writing utensil and a piece of paper. Explain that you are going to give them a challenge. They will have sixty seconds to complete the challenge. The challenge will consist of trying to create the longest list of answers possible from the categories that you will give them. As each team creates their list, the paper they are using to write down their answers will be passed around the circle with each person adding one answer to the list when it is their turn. A team may not have any duplicate answers. There is no talking as the paper is passed around the circle. If one person cannot think of an answer, they must write the word skip each time it comes to them. Remember there is no talking during the sixty seconds. When the time has expired, have each group report out their total number of answers, skips do not count. Then have each team read their list. Repeat this three times using a different category for each round. Since the first person to write will have the easiest time, have each round begin with a different person.

For rounds four and five, use the same process except that the group may talk during the sixty seconds. They may brainstorm and suggest answers to whomever has the piece of paper at the moment. Remember that the paper must still be passed from person to person with each individual writing down an answer before it is passed to the next person. The "skip" rule may still be used but with the group helping no one will likely have a need for it.

Suggestions for Categories:

- Animals with four legs
- Major league baseball teams
- Breakfast cereals
- Television shows
- Countries from around the world



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- States in America
- Sports
- Colors
- Foods served at fast food restaurants
- Musical instruments

Discussion Ideas:

“What” Questions

- How many answers did your team get in each of rounds one, two and three?
- How many answers did your team get in each of rounds four and five?
- How did these numbers compare to the other groups?
- What category did you find the easiest? The hardest?
- If you could choose a category that wasn't listed, what would it be?

“So What” Questions

- What can this activity tell us about working together?
- Did one person on your team always contribute the most?
- If your team only had two people, how well would your team have done?
- Why was your team able to create a longer list when you were allowed to talk?
- Why can't one person know everything?
- What role does a person's interests play in what they know?
- How does a person's background influence how they live?
- Does having people with various experiences help a community thrive?
- How does working together help make a problem easier to solve?

“Now What” Questions

- How can people from different backgrounds help make a community a better place to live?
- How can people from different backgrounds help solve a problem?

From: “Still More Activities That Teach” by Tom Jackson



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October: Community Service

Stretch Your Food Dollar

With fuel prices continually driving up the costs of food, families may have difficulties making ends meet. You can help these individuals by conducting a food budgeting program. As a Foods & Nutrition community service project, conduct a “Stretching Your Food Dollar” program at a local food bank/pantry. Your Texas AgriLife Extension Family Consumer Science agent or Better Living for Texans (BLT) program assistant can assist you with program information details and resources.

Resources to help get you started:

http://fcs.tamu.edu/food_and_nutrition/pdf/feedfamily.pdf

<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/fcd/nutrition/ewfl/module3/index.html>

<http://extension.unh.edu/FoodNutr/FNStretch.htm>

http://www.extension.org/pages/Tactics_for_Stretching_Your_Food_Dollar



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October: Flag Ceremony

What Makes America So Great

What makes America so great? There are a few simple words with boundless influences. The first is Freedom. It is the cornerstone of American values. The concept of an individual's having control over his/her own destiny influenced the type of government that was established here. Individual rights are guaranteed in the United States Constitution and amendments including the freedoms of speech, religion, the right to assemble, to keep and bear arms, and the right to a speedy trial.

Next would be Democracy, one of the most fundamental of American values. It was the reason for revolution, and comprises the heart of our political culture, where the common people are considered as the primary source of political power.

Then comes Equality. We believe in the ideal, as stated in the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal." Another would be Diversity. America's population reflects remarkable ethnic diversity. As such, America has been enriched by the values and beliefs of people and cultures from virtually every part of the world. But we are all Americans.

Opportunity. Early successes by pioneers gave an optimism about the future, a belief that problems could be solved. This positive spirit enables us to take risks in areas where others might only dream, and has resulted in tremendous advances in technology, health and science.

Unity. Although we are all very different, we are together as one; a nation of people, tolerant and accepting of our individual differences, joining together to become one nation, under God.

Adapted from: <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/flag/scoutsalute.asp>



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October: Ice Breaker

Acrostic Icebreaker

Youth use acrostics to introduce themselves. An acrostic is an arrangement of words in which certain letters in each line, when taken in order, spell out a word or motto. Using their first name, youth will come up with one word for each letter of their name that describes them. Here are a few examples of acrostics:

DIANE = Dynamic, Independent, Able, No-nonsense, Enthusiastic.

TODD = Tried and true, Oh boy, a boy!, Diamond in the rough, Destined for glory.

Give the youth a few minutes to think of an acrostic for their own name (or nickname) using words or phrases that describe themselves. Once everyone has thought of something, ask the group members to introduce themselves to each other by using the acrostics.

Variations:

- When creating the acrostic, have kids mix up the order of the letters in their names (Example: Ken = New Education King or NEK). Then have the rest of the group attempt to figure out each name.
- Instead of an acrostic, ask youth to create actions for each syllable in their name... (Example: Diane might act as if she will “Die” and hold up her “hand” – Die-Hand = Diane)
- If the group can be trusted to be encouraging and already knows each other to some degree, then you can ask the group to create acrostics for the names of each other.

Taking it to the Next Level:

- Was there any truth in the words and phrases you chose to represent your name in an acrostic?
- If you didn't have to use the letters in your name, what words and phrases might your friends use to describe you?
- At the end of your LONG life, what words and phrases would you want people would use to describe you?
- What are some things you can start doing now to start building the type of reputation that you want?



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October: Inspiration and More

Choices

Some people sit, some people try;
Some people laugh, some people cry;
Some people will, some people won't;
Some people do, some people don't.
Some people believe, and develop a plan;
Some people doubt, never think that they can;
Some people face hurdles and give it their best;
Some people back down when faced with a test.
Some people complain of their miserable lot;
Some people are thankful for all that they've got;
And when it's all over, when it comes to an end;
Some people lose out, and some people win.
We all have a choice, we all have a say;
We are spectators in life, or we get in and play;
Whichever we choose, how we handle life's game;
The choices are ours, no one else is to blame.

Author: Unknown

Source: <http://www.skywriting.net/inspirational/messages/choices.html>



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October: Program Idea

Positive Attitude

October is Positive Attitude Month. Invite a speaker to provide a motivational talk for youth or just to make them laugh. Challenge members to go share something funny or motivational with 10 other people that they learned from the program.