



Teen Leadership 20

Intended Audience:

- Teens

Lesson Objectives:

Participants will:

- Understand that youth and adults can work together on making decisions.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Piece of 8x11 paper for each participant
- Partnering Youth and Adults on Boards and Committees, handout

Do Ahead:

- Review Lesson Plan
- Make copies of Partnering Youth and Adults on Boards and Committees, handout

Youth on Boards and Committees

BACKGROUND

Committees and Board can bring youth and adults together in the decision making process. Examples would be Junior Fairboards, 4-H Committees, Fashion Boards, etc.

Many committees can benefit from the insight through joint decision making, planning and carrying out 4-H experience. These opportunities provide for the developing of leadership, citizenship, teamwork, decision-making, planning, and organizing and evaluation skills.

WHAT TO DO

Activity:

- Give each participant a sheet of paper and tell them to close their eyes and hold the paper in front of them.
- Instruct them to fold the paper in half and in half again. Then they should form a triangle with the folded paper.
- Tell them to rip off the lower right corner.
- Open their eyes and unfold the paper.



Sources:

- Calvert, Matt
“Wisconsin Models for Youth Involvement in Local Government Decision –Making”
Retrieved from
<http://www.uwex.edu>

Prepared by:
Kathy Bruynis,
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
OSU Extension Highland
County
Phone: 937.393.1918
Email: bruynis.5@osu.edu

Reviewed by:
Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership
Design Team Members

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- Do any of the papers look alike or different?
(This shows how everyone no matter their age can be alike as well as different.
The committee or board members interpretation and understanding of these instructions might be the same or different.)
- Discuss with members how they are different and the same.
- What did you learn from this activity?

Apply:

How do differences or similarities affect working together as a committee?

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/4h/page/working-youth-committees>
- <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/>

Please take time to complete the Participant and Facilitator evaluations, found online at go.osu.edu/TeenLeadership20.

Considerations for Conducting Virtually:

- Ask each participant to bring a piece of paper with them to the meeting.
- Consider using the “whiteboard” feature for brainstorming about involvement in boards and committees.
- Consider using the “whiteboard” feature for discussing how the papers/boards are similar and different.

Partnering Youth and Adults on Boards and Committees

- Make sure to schedule meetings when and where youth can attend; don't make the meetings during the school day.
- Provide time where both youth and adults can socialize to get to know each other.
- Offer refreshments that will appeal to everyone.
- Provide training for both youth and adults.
- Provide mentors for both youth and adults utilizing previous members
- Provide an atmosphere of reciprocal trust
- Members of the board or committee are to be treated as equals: Don't intimidate.
- Provide all members with a list of commonly used acronyms.
- Adults, be a good role model through language and actions.
- Get everyone involved – actively seek input, listen and ask questions.
- Roles and responsibilities should be shared by both youth and adults.

Adapted from: Iowa 4-H Youth Development, Iowa State University Extension's *How to Partner with Youth on 4-H Youth Committees*



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