

Cloverbud Farms at the Fair

OBJECTIVES:

1. To develop small group communication skills through one-on-one mentoring and group activities
2. To foster a sense of belonging through taking part in appropriate Fair activities with older members
3. To develop greater awareness of animals
4. To develop large and small motor skills through appropriate physical activities.
5. To make new friends
6. To provide recognition for Cloverbud participation in appropriate activities
7. To develop an appreciation of safety considerations when being around animals

GROUP SIZE:

Estimated total 20-25, at various times in one-to-one dyads or groups of 6 to 8 Cloverbuds with volunteer helper.

TIME FRAME:

Total of approximately 90 minutes to two hours, spread over different days during Fair week.

BACKGROUND:

Activities will allow Cloverbud members to take part in the fair and develop a greater awareness of animals and their needs in developmentally appropriate, noncompetitive ways. Cloverbud members will be paired with adult volunteers or older members who will enter an "animal friend" in the special "Cloverbud Farms" area at the Fair. "Animal friend" may be a pet of Cloverbud whose entry is sponsored by older member to ensure proper care. Cloverbuds will take part in several activities with their mentor, followed by group activities in which all Cloverbuds will have shared experiences. Adult volunteers or teen leaders will lead these.

LIFE SKILL AREAS:

Children will develop social skills through interaction with mentors, adult volunteers, and other Cloverbuds in group activities. Decision-making skills will be developed through discussions about which animal is their favorite. Large motor skills will be developed through the "Helping" activity, and through various games. Small motor skills will be enhanced when working with older members and activity experiences.

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LEARNING ACTIVITIES

GETTING STARTED

Activity: ENJOYING ANIMALS (5-10 minutes)

Grade Level: K-2

Materials: The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities: Chapter 44 – ‘Pets’

Instructions to Leader: Use the "Pet Survey" and "You're Acting Like an Animal" activities from The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities: Chapter 44 – ‘Pets’.

Application: As you do each activity, ask members to compare pets used as examples to other farm animals on display at the fair. Ask each member to introduce his or her "Cloverbud Farms Animal Friend" to the group and tell its name and what he or she feels is special about it.

DIGGING DEEPER

Activity: HELPING OUR ANIMAL FRIENDS (5-10 minutes)

Grade Level: K-2

Materials: Various kinds of animals, feed, water dishes, and other equipment

Instructions to Leader: Cloverbud and older member serving as mentor will work together at designated feeding time. Older member shows Cloverbud how animal is fed and watered. Safety considerations around all animals, especially larger ones, are paramount. Larger animals should be kept in pens or stalls, and an experienced older member or adult should accompany the Cloverbud member into the stall, and always stand in a protective position.

Application: At a designated time, all Cloverbuds taking part in exercise meet with volunteer leader(s). Group takes a "guided tour" of Cloverbud Farms area, with each member taking turns introducing his or her "Animal Friend" to the group. Cloverbud gives the name of animal, what kind it and tells what he or she likes best about the animal.

Activity: WHAT'S IN THE BAG? (3-5 minutes)

Grade Level: K-2

Materials: Feed sack; various feeding dishes, water bottles, grooming tool; samples of various feed in zip-lock baggies, The Big Book of 4-H Cloverbud Activities: Chapter 44 – ‘Pets’

Instructions to Leader: Do the activity described in Chapter 44. Ask each Cloverbud to pull an item out of the feed sack and identify what it is and what animal it is for. If members are unsure, ask group "Who can help? Who knows what this is?"

Application: Ask members to think of how many items can be used by more than one "Cloverbud Animal Friend." Ask if they know of other feed or grooming items which were not in the bag. Ask why feeding animals regularly is important; how to tell if the animal is hungry; whether the animal can feed itself; and why grooming the animal is important.



LOOKING WITHIN

Activity: CLOVERBUD SHOW AND TELL (5-8 minutes per minutes per member w/ no longer than a 10-minute wait)

Grade Level: K-2

Materials: Items members have on display or bring from home to share; giant Cloverbud puzzle pieces, and board with outline of pieces traced on it and hooks to hang pieces; Cloverbud participation ribbons

Instructions to Leader: One volunteer should welcome Cloverbuds who come during appointed time and help them sign in.

- 1.) Each member would then be introduced to the adult volunteer "judge" with whom the Cloverbud will talk. In a brief one-to-one dialogue, volunteer will ask the member to tell what they brought and ask a few other questions designed to praise and reinforce what the Cloverbud member has done in his or her club activities. At the end of the show and tell "interview," all members will receive a recognition ribbon.
- 2.) After the interview, each member will receive a large piece of the "Cloverbud" logo puzzle and will be encouraged to place it in the appropriate place in the puzzle frame.

The outline of the pieces will be traced on the frame to help members place each piece successfully. After hanging each puzzle piece, Cloverbud member will be encouraged to add his or her name to the "Cloverbud Wall of Fame" next to the puzzle.

Application: At the meeting, members can be asked to tell how they felt before and after the "interview." They can also share what they brought with the group as a sample of their activities, and tell the group what they liked best about it. Ask the members, "Did anyone do something they had never done before? How did it feel?"

Activity: BEING A BARN HELPER (10-15minutes)

Grade Level: K-2

Materials: brooms, rakes, dustpans, trash bags, etc.

Instructions to Leader: Older members and Cloverbuds work as partners to help clean areas. Older members demonstrate and explain, then invite Cloverbuds to take over. Cloverbuds should be limited to duties which do NOT involve pitchforks, hoes, wheelbarrows, heavy lifting etc. Older members and volunteers should be prepared to "finish up" if major mistakes are made, but should overlook minor oversights.

Application: Leader should ask Cloverbuds: "Why do some things need to be done over and over again?" "How did you feel when you were helping?" "Were some things harder or easier for you?" "Why is it important to keep the places where animals are living clean?"



Activity: ANIMAL SCIENCE SHOWCASE (10 to 12 minutes)
Grade Level: K-2
Materials: Animal to display with older member; pen or display table.

Instructions to Leader: Cloverbud member and older member work as a team in an animal science showcase setting. Older member models technique at first, then instructs Cloverbud in: animal's name, type, breed, and age safety considerations what the animal eats. As passers-by from the fair going public stop to look, Cloverbud, with member encouragement, shares information with public. (For larger animals, animal remains tied up and an older member holds animal). Adult or older member should be in control of animal at all times, not Cloverbud member. Older member and Cloverbud work together to invite passers-by to pet animals, and answer questions from public. As a safety note, children should be reminded not to be eating while they are handling their animals, or placing food down (especially if not in secure containers or wrappers) in the same areas where animals are being displayed and handled. If animals are petted, make sure hand sanitizers are available for the children to use.

Application: At end of session, volunteer meets with Cloverbud members and asks them to share how they felt at the beginning and end of the session, and what they liked best. Group finishes by singing "Old McDonald Had a Farm," naming and giving appropriate noises for animals involved in session.

BRINGING CLOSURE

Activity: CLOVERBUD FRIEND SEARCH (20 to 30 minutes on Fairgrounds)
Grade Level: K-2
Materials: Cloverbud emblems, pencils, "Cloverbud Friends" sign-in sheets

Instructions to Leader: On "Cloverbud Show and Tell Day" (see previous activity), each member will receive a Cloverbud emblem to pin on his or her shirt, and a "Find a Friend" sheet. After the show and tell session, each Cloverbud will be encouraged to look for "Silver Friends" (old friends) and "Gold Friends" (new ones) wearing the emblem during the rest of the day, and ask them to sign their list. Parents or older siblings would be asked to help encourage members to do this. Before a Cloverbud leaves the Fairgrounds, he or she can present the sheet to an identified volunteer and receive a special Junior Fair activity ribbon. If a number of Cloverbuds are still on the grounds in late afternoon or early evening, this could be done at a special brief ceremony, at which the members could sing, "Make New Friends and Keep the Old."

Application: Cloverbud members who are able should be asked to meet at a specified time at "Cloverbud Farms." Leader should ask how it felt to see old friends and to make new ones. Ask them to share "opening lines" they used to approach new friends wearing Cloverbud emblem.

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