Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

Intended Audience
- 4-H club members

Lesson Objectives
Club members and parents will:
- Evaluate club fundraisers
- Learn how to make a fundraiser successful
- Develop a process for planning a fundraiser

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies
- Pencils
- Easel paper
- Markets
- Handout: "Club Fundraising Planning Sheet"

Do ahead
- Review lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies
- Copy handout, one per member

Club Fundraising

BACKGROUND

4-H clubs inevitably have a discussion at a meeting about holding a club fundraiser. Fundraisers are a legitimate means for raising funds for a specific purpose. These include paying for project books, taking a trip, camp scholarships, fair passes and much more. If you are unsure if the reason you are raising funds for your 4-H club is allowable, contact your county 4-H professional.

Members need to keep in mind that your club's main goal is NOT fundraising, so limit such activity to once or twice per year and only if funds are needed to accomplish your REAL club goals. Your primary activity should be experiential learning, development of life skills, and educational opportunities for your club members through club meetings and activities. However, participating in fundraisers teaches club members communication, financial management, teamwork, and leadership skills from the process of brainstorming ideas to implementing the event or activity.

Fundraising is fun to talk about, but there is a process that needs to happen between the brainstorming ideas phase and the implementation stage. Consider other county 4-H fundraisers that you might be competing against. The county's fundraisers are helping to raise money for the overall 4-H program and benefit all members of the program, so make sure you are not competing with their efforts. As club members, you need to consider: facility/location, time frame and date, number of people needed to complete, permits and fees, safety of location, and how money will be handled the day of the event.

The first step is deciding as a club, "Why are we (club) going to have a fundraiser?" Once you have decided on a reason to raise money for your club, pass out the worksheet and have members start brainstorming a list of possible fundraisers.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Sources

- Kustka, Linda UWEX 4-H Club Management, "Club Fund Raising"

- OSU Extension "Guidelines for Raising Funds for Local 4-H Clubs"

- Rutgers University "Guidelines for 4-H Fundraising" http://nj4h.rutgers.edu/pdfs/4-h-club-fundraising-guidelines.pdf

WHAT TO DO
Activity

Decide how a fundraiser will help you achieve you club goals. What will you do with the money you are going to generate through your club's fundraiser?

Pass out the fundraising planning sheet so that club members can brainstorm some ideas.

Members should fill in all spaces related to the fundraiser they brainstormed.

Give members about 10 minutes to brainstorm and complete worksheet.

Talk about the ideas that are still viable options once the members considered each criterion.

Place those ideas on easel paper and have additional discussion as a club to make sure they are all possible options for fundraiser.

Once you have discussed all options your club needs to vote on one fundraiser.

Some additional planning of the activity selected might need to happen before the club can complete the fundraiser.

TALK IT OVER
Reflect

- What lessons have you learned from being involved in previous fundraisers?
- What are some of the steps in planning a fundraiser?

Apply

- What other events in your life might you make a list to accomplish?
- What advantages do you see from planning an event or task?

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- Ohio State University Extension, Club Officer Resources – Treasurer's Book. http://www.ohio4h.org/members/officers/