

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Virtually

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

- Computer with camera
- Virtual meeting platform established
- Handout:
 - “Club Fundraising Planning Sheet”

Do Ahead

- Review Curriculum Overview
- Review Lesson
- E-mail a copy of the “Club Fundraising Planning Sheet” to each family

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.



Sources

- Kustka, Linda. UWEX 4-H Club Management, “Club Fund Raising.”
- Ohio State University 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>

Additional Links

- Ohio State University Extension, Club Officer Resources—Treasurer’s Book.
<http://www.ohio4h.org/members/officers/>
- Penn State University, “Guideline for Club Treasurer”
<https://extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h/leaders/policies/section-16>

Prepared By

Travis West,
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
OSU Extension Vinton County
west.222@osu.edu

Reviewed by

4-H Youth Development
professionals in an 11-county
region in Southern Ohio
January 2021

WHAT TO DO

Activity:

1. Decide how a fundraiser will help you achieve your club goals. What will you do with the money you are going to generate through your club’s fundraiser?
2. Ask members to refer to their fundraising planning sheet you emailed them so that club members can brainstorm some ideas. Members could complete the fillable pdf planning sheet on their own or pending group size, divide them into breakout groups/rooms.
3. Once planning sheet is complete, have members type ideas into the chat box or allow breakout group spokesperson share screen and planning sheet.
4. Give members about 10 minutes to share and discuss their ideas and responses in the chat, talking about the ideas that are still viable options once the members considered each criterion.
5. Type those ideas that seem to be most viable and have the most interest and use the screen sharing function to display those for others.
6. Once you have discussed all options your club needs to vote on one fundraiser. (you can use a virtual polling function to track votes OR if you number the options, members can type their vote in the chat).
7. 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?

EVALUATION

Place the following link in the chat for attendees to use to complete the evaluation for the session

go.osu.edu/bestbettervirtual .