

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Virtually

Discover Yourself at Camp

Intended Audience:

- 4-H Club Members

Lesson Objectives:

Club members and parents will:

- Explore the camping opportunities available to 4-H members.
- Learn about the benefits of the camping experience.
- Discover the opportunities available to teen 4-H members to develop leadership skills through camp.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Pencil and paper or utilize note-taking features in your online platform
- Handout
 - Benefits of Camp (Handout can be shared ahead of time and/or shared using screen share)
 - Link to the Handout is available at: go.osu.edu/benefitsofcamp
- Camp promotional materials for your county
- Link to Ohio 4-H Family Guide as a reference for various statewide camping opportunities available: <https://ohio4h.org/familyguide>

BACKGROUND

What is so great about going to 4-H camp? Camping helps 4-H members grow and develop while having fun. Why do our teenage 4-H'ers spend all that time planning camp and going to training meetings when they could be working or doing their 4-H projects? It is because they see the value that 4-H camp can offer. In many of our 4-H families, parents may see 4-H camp promotion materials that come in the mail or across their social media feed. However, they may keep scrolling or send the camp brochure to the trash because they don't really know much about it. This interactive session will share information with 4-H members, parents, and potential camp counselors about the benefits of participating in 4-H camping programs.

WHAT TO DO:

Depending on the size of the group and the virtual platform you are using, you will want to utilize breakout rooms to divide club members into groups of 8-10 people. If this is not possible, the activity can be done as one large group activity utilizing Zoom, Facebook Groups, Google Meet or other online platforms. Ask each group to designate one person to take notes either on paper or as part of the online platform. If taking notes online, make sure they plan to save their notes so that they can share with the large group.

Activity 1: Brainstorm Benefits of Camp: Ask each group to brainstorm answers to each question:

- **How do youth benefit from camp?**
 - Give the groups 5 minutes to complete this task.
 - Have each group share 5-10 of their responses that have not been shared yet.
 - After each group has shared, ask any 4-H members or 4-H Alumni that have attended camp in the past to share how they benefited from attending camp.
- Refer to the *Benefits of Camp* handout and by sharing your screen or referencing the link. Ask the group if they are surprised by any of these responses.
- Share the link to the Ohio 4-H Family Guide so that members can reference the camping opportunities that are available statewide.



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Do Ahead:

- Review Curriculum Overview
- Review lesson and camping opportunities in your county
- Locate links or information to be able to share camp promotional materials for your county.
- If you are not familiar with 4-H camp or don't have teen counselors in your club, you may want to contact your 4-H professional to help you to identify someone that can assist you

Sources:

- Benefits of Camp summary of items identified during the American Camp Association National Conference, Chicago, IL 02-08-06.
- 4-H Camps as Learning Labs, McNeely, Niki Nestor.

Additional Links

- <http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-camps>

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Activity 2: County Camp Opportunities – Refer to and share on screen the camp dates and promotional materials for your county. Explain the camp registration process and any camp scholarship opportunities for your county. Ask if there are any questions about camp that you or others in your club can help to answer? If you are not familiar with 4-H camp or do not have many youth in your club that have attended camp, you can ask one of your county's camp counselors to come in and help with this lesson or utilize your county's Camp Ambassador if you have one. Your 4-H professional can help you identify these individuals.

Ask, by having youth raise their hand or answer a poll, how many are planning on attending camp for the coming year. Explain to youth and parents that they can contact you or the 4-H professional if they have further questions. Encourage youth to bring a friend to 4-H camp. In most counties, non-4-H members are welcome to attend camp as well.

Discuss the additional camp opportunities that are available to teens in your county:

- Serving as a 4-H Camp Counselor.
- Statewide Camping Teen Opportunities such as State 4-H Leadership Camp and Ohio 4-H Sea Camp.
- Specialized Camps such as State 4-H Shooting Sports Camp (Jr. Camp ages 9-12 and Sr. Camp ages 12-18).
- Contact your 4-H professional for more information about these opportunities.

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- How do you think that YOU can benefit from attending camp this summer?
- How can you help others to take advantage of this opportunity?

Apply:

- What ways can you we promote camp to youth and families in our community?
 - What can YOU do to make sure this happens?

EVALUATION

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

go.osu.edu/bestbettervirtual .