

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

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

- Pencils
- Paper
- Handout-Benefits of Camp
- Camp promotional materials for your county
- Ohio 4-H Family Guide

Do ahead

- Review lesson and camping opportunities in your county
- Gather equipment and supplies

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 identify someone to assist you.

Discover Yourself at Camp

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, the 4-H camp promotion materials come to the house, but parents decide not to mention it to the 4-H'ers 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

Divide club members into groups of 8-10 people. Give each group a piece of paper and a pen/pencil.

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

- **How do youth benefit from attending 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.
- Distribute the *Benefits of Camp* handout. Ask the group if they are surprised by any of these responses.

Activity 2: County Camp Opportunities – Pass out 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.



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Sources

- *Benefits of Camp* handout includes items identified during the American Camp Association National Conference, Chicago, IL 2-08-06.
- Elliot, Dennis, 4-H Camps as Learning Labs

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

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- <http://go.osu.edu/bestbetter>: *Discover Yourself at Camp*, Camp Ambassador PowerPoint, for counties attending Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. If your county attends a different camp, contact your 4-H professional for promotional resources that might be available.
- Check out your camp's Facebook page and/or the Ohio 4-H Camp website for more information: <http://www.ohio4h.org/4-h-camps>

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