

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Virtually

Intended Audience

- 4-H Club Members
- 4-H Club advisors

Lesson Objectives

Club members and parents will:

- Understand the purpose and importance of using committees in a 4-H Club.
- Gain ideas on how to form committees.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies

- Virtual platform with chat and/or whiteboard and breakout room features.

Do Ahead

- Review Curriculum Overview
- Review Lesson
- On the shared screen present the question “What can 4-H clubs do to have more interesting meetings?”

Making Club Committees Count

BACKGROUND

Committees are a critical part of a 4-H Club. Through committee work every 4-H club member has an opportunity to help lead and direct club activities. These groups plan and supervise various club activities, helping members develop a sense of teamwork.

Even though everyone will not want to hold an office or be a committee chairperson, each committee member can help with program planning, making phone calls, or recruiting new members. Special committees appointed during the year may plan a club tour, the fair booth, or an achievement program.

Committees may be appointed by the President with the assistance of the advisor, or members may volunteer to serve on committees. It is recommended that each member serve on at least one committee every year. Some other ways that committees can be formed are:

- Sign-up via Qualtrics or through Zoom Poll: Allows members to choose the committee on which they would like to serve.
- Indicate their interests: Members complete an interest survey via Qualtrics or a Doodle Poll. The results allow the club leadership team to appoint a balance of experience and perspectives for the committees.
- Recruitment of members: Advisors or committee chairs recruit members for the committees before finalizing the appointments.
- Identify chair and members sign up: List the committee chair and provide the number of spaces for members on a virtual sign-up sheet. Ask members to sign up for the committee of their choice.
- Be alert for any cliques forming or the exclusion of any members if members are allowed to freely choose their committee.

Committees plan and supervise various club activities, helping members develop a sense of teamwork. Always remember to give the committees support as they begin and continue their work. You may want to appoint an advisor to work with each committee. Caution the advisor to provide help and support, but not do the committee's work. Also, take care to appoint only screened and approved volunteers; do not appoint parent helpers!



Sources

- Kustka, Linda. UWEX 4-H Club Management, "Forming Club Committees," <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hpublications/forming-club-committees/>
- Jeanne Baum, UWEX, "Youth Volunteers in Motion."
- Sarah Lindsey, Emerti, Ohio State University Extension 4-H Youth Development.
- "Ohio 4-H Priority Team Project/Advisors Handbook," OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development

Additional Links

- The University of Wisconsin Division of Extension website offers many club resources that may help you strengthen your club programming: <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hpublications/category/4-h-club-management/>

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*We are indebted to the original author of the previous version of this lesson plan,
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WHAT TO DO

Activity:

Begin with a chat explosion, have each member type a response into their chat box then ask everyone to press send simultaneously, to the question, "What can 4-H Clubs do to have more interesting meetings?" Was it easy or hard to list an idea?

After completing the individual list, send youth to break out rooms in small groups of 3 or 4 per group, and ask the same question again. Have someone in the group record the answers, the whiteboard feature and chat box could also be utilized. The groups have two minutes to brainstorm their answers to the question.

After discussing the groups answers, ask the question: "Did you have more ideas as an individual or as a group? What differences in quality or creativity or ideas happened when more people contributed?"

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

What is important about forming 4-H club committees?

Apply:

- What tips would you give others about forming a 4-H Club Committee?
- What is a way you could help your club form committees?

EVALUATION

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

go.osu.edu/bestbettervirtual .