

# Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

## Intended Audience

- 4-H club members
- 4-H club advisors

## Lesson Objectives

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

**Time:** 20 minutes

## Equipment and supplies

- Easel Paper
- Markers
- Pencils
- Index cards
- Candy
- Sign-up or interest sheets

## Do ahead

- Review lesson
- On the easel paper, write the question: "What can 4-H clubs do to have more interesting meetings?"
- Purchase candy
- Have index cards and pencils ready
- Think about committees that your club should have

## 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 sheets: Allows members to choose the committee on which they would like to serve.
- Indicate their interests: Members complete an interest survey. 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 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 committees.



**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

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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 to do the committee's work. Also, take care to appoint only screened and approved 4-H volunteers; do not appoint parent helpers!

**WHAT TO DO****Activity:**

Allow each member to take the number of candies they'd like. Explain to the members that for every candy they have in their hands, they must provide an answer to the question, "What can 4-H clubs do to have more interesting meetings?" Ask them to list their ideas on an index card. When finished, invite them to eat their candy! Was it easy or hard to list an idea for each piece of candy?

After completing the individual list, have the youth break into small groups of 3 or 4 per group, and ask the same question again. Have someone in the group record the answers on an index card. The groups have one minute to brainstorm their answers to the question.

After discussing the group's answers, ask the question: "Did you have more ideas as an individual or as a group? What differences in quality or creativity of 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?