

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

Intended Audience

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

Lesson Objectives

Club members and advisors will:

- Make meetings fun and educational
- Design a balanced meeting with educational programs, recreation, and projects

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies

- Scissors
- Pencils
- Handouts:
 - “Points to Look for in a Good 4-H Meeting” checklist
 - “Putting a Meeting Together” puzzle

Do ahead

- Review lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies
- Copy handouts, one per member

Making Meetings Matter

BACKGROUND

Although each 4-H club is unique, all have some things in common. In order to make 4-H fun and educational, meetings should include a balance among:

- Programs to acquire knowledge and share ideas.
- Group decisions that develop self-confidence and leadership, along with allowing all members to participate in decision making.
- Recreation and social time.

The goal of making your 4-H club meetings matter is to provide long-term youth development opportunities that encourage life skills to help young people grow into healthy and productive citizens.

This lesson will allow youth to participate in a fun, hands-on game that will impart ways of making their 4-H club meetings more interactive and goal-oriented.

WHAT TO DO

Activity:

Review the “Points to Look for in a Good 4-H Meeting” checklist with your club members. This will provide the club leadership team with feedback to see what areas need improvement in the meetings. Give the club members time to complete the survey.

After completing the survey, pass out the puzzle sheet and allow the youth to cut the puzzle pieces apart. Have the youth put the puzzle pieces together in a way they think would make the club’s meetings fun, interesting, and educational.

After completing the puzzle project, put youth in small groups and allow time for them to create a plan for their meeting based on how their puzzle came together. Putting together an interesting 4-H meeting is like putting together a puzzle, except you have the flexibility to put the pieces together in the way that works best for your club.



Sources

- Strickler, Jenny, 4-H Youth Development Educator, OSU Extension. "Effective 4-H Club Meetings," <http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/4h-6>
- "Kansas State University Extension Officer Facilitator Guide," <https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/4H930.pdf>
- "Points to Look for in a Good 4-H Meeting," University of Illinois

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- Are your meetings run properly? Give an example of what makes for a good meeting.
- Did reviewing the survey make your club more aware of running a meeting?
- Do you expect future club meetings to run differently? If so, how?

Apply:

- After each meeting, complete the survey about good club meetings and discuss.
- Bring a topic or game to your club meeting that is educational and or fun.

Prepared by Connie L. Goble
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
OSU Extension Pike County

Reviewed by Ohio Valley EERA
4-H Youth Development
Professionals
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