

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Virtually

Intended Audience

- New and Returning 4-H Club Members & Families

Lesson Objectives

Club members and parents will:

- Gain a general overview of the 4-H program
- Learn where to find necessary information about the 4-H program
- Find out about county specific dates and information
- Get to know other club members

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies

- 4-H Family Guides
<https://ohio4h.org/familyguide>
- Link to countywide dates page or calendar
- Link to county fair book
- Copy of “4-H Family Bingo Cards” and call list for “4-H Family Bingo can be emailed or sent out in messages to families
- Small bingo prizes if desired (either virtual or small items to mail out following the event)

New Family Orientation

BACKGROUND

As a new 4-H family comes into the 4-H program, volunteers and community clubs are on the front line to create a welcoming environment and make sure that youth are aware of 4-H policies, procedures, and opportunities. The 4-H lingo, as well as the many rules and regulations, can often be overwhelming for a new family.

Many of our volunteers and 4-H families have been around the program for so long that these things become second nature. They do not consider the fact that a new 4-H family may have no idea what they are talking about when they use words like skillathon, QA, PAS, or Cloverbud.

As new youth join your club, do you truly take the time to welcome them and make an effort to include them? Volunteers and members need to take special consideration to help make these families feel welcome so they can develop the same interest and belief in the program that so many long-time 4-H families have established.

The 4-H program offers nearly 200 projects that vary in subject area and level of expertise. Because of this variety, it is easy for new members and their families to feel overwhelmed. Enrolling in a 4-H project is required for 4-H participation because it enables 4-H'ers to set and meet goals.

Eligibility for 4-H membership begins when a child is enrolled in kindergarten and is age 5 as of January 1 of the current year (Cloverbuds). Eligibility for participation in 4-H projects and competitive events begins when a child is age 8 and enrolled in 3rd grade of January 1 of the current year. Any youth age 9 and above is eligible for project membership. Ohio 4-H membership ends December 31 of the year in which an individual turns 19.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: 4-H Family Bingo

- Assign 3-4 members/families to breakout rooms using Zoom, or your preferred virtual platform. Try to put at least one or two experienced members with each new member.



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AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



Do Ahead

- Review Curriculum Overview
- Review Lesson
- Assemble links to applicable countywide documents for members and distribute ahead of time
- Distribute “4-H Family Bingo Cards” via email
- Print one copy of Bingo Call Sheet

Sources

- Ohio 4-H Volunteer Handbook
<https://www.ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/volunteers/Ohio4-HVolunteerHandbook-v10-23-15-2.pdf>

Additional Links

- ohio4h.org
- County website: countyname.osu.edu

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- Email 4-H Family Bingo Cards to members/families ahead of time. Advise members to have pens/pencils available to mark their bingo cards or use their devices to digitally record their answers on bingo cards. If members cannot print their bingo cards, they can recreate them on their own paper.
- Each group will work together to complete the answers on their individual bingo cards in preparation to play bingo as an entire group.
- Instruct participants to introduce themselves once they get in their groups.
- Members work together to answer as many questions on their bingo cards as they can by working together to find someone in the group who knows the answer to each of the questions.
 - Each person/family should write the answer on their card or write it on a separate piece of paper. Answers can also be recorded digitally.
 - Participants can use individuals in the room or other resources that they may have available (family guides, newsletters, dates pages, fair book, etc. to find the answers)
- Give participants approximately 10 minutes to complete this task.
- Then come back together as an entire group.
- Next, begin calling out the bingo call list and if the members have answered that question correctly on their card they can circle that spot when you call out that item. Since you are meeting virtually, you can have fun virtual prizes when people call out bingo. These might be fun pictures of stuffed animals or silly items. Or you may be able to mail out small prizes following the event.
- As each item is called, have someone share the answer to that question and provide explanation as necessary so that everyone gets accurate information. Be sure to explain where to find the information as well so that they can access it in the future.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What is one new thing that you learned about your county or state 4-H program today?
- What is one thing that you were surprised to learn through this activity?

Apply:

- Give one personal expectation for the coming 4-H year.
- Returning members find a new member to mentor through their first year in 4-H. Talk about how they will do this.

EVALUATION

Place the following link in the chat for attendees to use to complete the evaluation for the session go.osu.edu/bestbetervirtual .