

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

Teaching Teens to Teach

Intended Audience

- Older 4-H club members

Lesson Objectives

Teens will learn to:

- Teach lessons
- Give clear instructions
- Adapt lessons to the ability of the learner

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Pencils
- Paper
- Resource:
Teaching Activity Cards
- Hat, bowl, or bag
- Shoe with laces and other items as described on the activity cards

Do ahead

- Review lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies
- Cut apart the Teaching Activity Cards
- Make enough cards for each teen. It's OK if there are duplicate cards.

BACKGROUND

Utilizing older youth to teach has long been a common practice in the 4-H program. Through such opportunities, teens learn marketable skills in communication, teaching, and leadership. The younger members who are on the receiving end of the teen teaching gain the lesson skills and form positive relationships with teen instructors.

The goal of teaching teens to be teachers is to give them a positive leadership experience, while providing their "students" with a fun, educational lesson that is taught or led by a positive role model.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Teaching Teens to Teach - Print a copy of the Teaching Activity Cards and cut them apart. Place the individual cards in a hat, bowl, bag, etc., so each teen may select one card.

Have supplies for the group ready so the participants can follow the instructions the teacher gives. The group may want to select one participant to follow the instructions, depending on the amount of supplies you have provided. On some activities, the whole group may want to participate.

Explain that the key to being a good teacher is giving good, clear instructions that the learner will be able to follow. Additionally, as a teacher they will want to make the activity fun for their audience.

Have each teen draw a card out of the bowl/hat/bag. Tell them that they will be teaching the rest of the group to do what is on their card. (If you have a large group - more than 10 - you can divide them into smaller groups to save time.)

Encourage teens in the group to ask questions of their teacher. Be sure the questions are appropriate for the activity being taught. Tell the group to follow the instructions they are given.



Sources

- Some activities taken from Camp Counselor interview stations created by Erin Dailey, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Jackson County.

Make sure each teen has an opportunity to teach one simple activity to the group. Give them several minutes to teach an activity, and then move on to the next teacher and activity.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- Have the group talk about one thing each person did well, i.e., spoke clearly, gave good instructions, smiled during their lesson, included everyone, answered questions clearly, etc. Then talk about the things they need to work on to become better teachers.

Apply:

- Have each participant list one thing they will try to improve the next time they are teaching.
- Set a schedule to give teens an opportunity to teach or lead an activity to the whole club. The teens can teach individually or in groups. Many of the lessons in the curriculum, *Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Version 2.0*, would be great for teens to share with their fellow club members. Help teens select topics to teach and provide needed support as they follow through.
- Enjoy watching your teens and younger 4-H'ers learn from one another and grow through the experience! Our teens are the leaders of tomorrow's 4-H clubs and this will help get them on the right track!

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