

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Virtually

Health: The Fourth H

Intended Audience:

- 4-H Club Members

Lesson Objectives:

Club members and parents will:

- Utilize *Choose MyPlate* visual to learn recommended amount and types of foods to eat for good health.
- Identify healthy food choices for snacks and beverages for club meetings,
- Learn how healthy food choices and regular physical activity promote good health.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Markers or coloring utensils
- Paper plate or plain piece of paper
- Handout:
 - Small Choose MyPlate Poster or “What’s on your plate?” handout. (Copies available from your local Extension Office.)

BACKGROUND

“Health” is the fourth “H” in the 4-H Pledge. When we say the 4-H Pledge, we are pledging our health to better living. That means we are promising to strive to keep our bodies strong and healthy. Wow, this sounds impressive, but are we really practicing what we have pledged to do? Statistics indicate that one third of youth in Ohio are either overweight or obese and that an increasing number of youth are not getting enough physical activity. Poor eating habits and lack of exercise can lead to developing many health problems such as Type II Diabetes, Heart Disease, and Cancer. To grow up healthy, youth need to eat a diet that includes fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low fat milk, and lean protein. They need to eat fewer foods high in sugar, fats, and sodium. It is also recommended that youth engage in at least 60 minutes of fun physical activity each day.

4-H club meetings can be an ideal place for youth to learn and practice making healthy eating choices and to engage in fun physical activities. Consider making a club policy to serve only healthy foods and beverages for meeting refreshments. Have club members and advisors brainstorm and come up with a list of healthy snack ideas to share with parents. Work with the recreation officer to plan a 10-minute fun physical movement activity for each meeting. To encourage members to think about healthy lifestyle choices, ask your secretary to do a health-related topic for attendance roll call at each meeting. Ask the health officers to address a healthy lifestyle topic in their presentations, as well.

WHAT TO DO

Activity 1: Roll Call for Health.

When the club secretary takes attendance, he/she can ask each member to stand up and call out their favorite healthy snack. Have someone record the healthy snack ideas and share them with parents for ideas for healthy club meeting refreshments. Use a new topic each meeting.



Do Ahead:

- Review Curriculum Overview
- Review Lesson
- Gather supplies (Email list to others)

Sources:

- <https://www.myplate.gov>

Additional Links

- <https://wmich.edu/rec/veggiechallenge>
- <https://www.healthyeating.org/?Referer=dairycouncilofca>

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*We are indebted to the original author of the previous version of this lesson plan, **Kathy Jelley***

Reviewed by:

4-H Youth Development professionals in an 11-county region in Southern Ohio
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Activity 2: What's on Your Plate? (This activity could be conducted by the health officer or a nutrition project member.)

Show members the *Choose MyPlate* poster or the "What's on your plate?" handout and discuss how the plate is divided into sections to represent what we need to eat to be healthy.

One half of the plate should be fruits and vegetables; one fourth, grains; one fourth, lean protein; and there should be one serving of low-fat milk or milk product. Each day we need about 2 ½ cups of vegetables, 2 cups of fruit, 6 ounces of grains, 3 cups of dairy, and 5 ounces of protein. (Refer to the "What's on your plate?" handout for more information.)

Pass out a paper plate and a marker to each member. Have members draw a line down the middle of the plate and then draw another line to divide one half of the plate into fourths to make their own *Choose MyPlate* visual. Next have members label the sections of the plate to correspond with the My Plate poster. Ask them to think about what foods they ate today and have them to list or draw the foods in the correct sections on the plate.

Have members pair up to discuss what their plate looks like. If you use virtual breakout rooms for this activity, make sure to send groups of three to each breakout room to follow 4-H recommendations. Is it filled with healthy or unhealthy choices? Is half the plate filled with fruit and veggies, a quarter with whole grains, and a quarter with lean protein? Is there a low-fat milk choice? What foods need to be removed, and what foods could be added to make the plate healthier?

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- What other activities can your 4-H club implement to help the members become healthier?

Apply:

- Have members set a short-term goal for one thing they can do to improve their health. (Example goal: To start taking a 30-minute walk 5 days a week.)
- Have members report back on the progress they have made on their health goal at the next meeting. You could use this as next month's Roll Call for Health.

EVALUATION

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