

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better

Intended Audience

- 4-H club members

Lesson Objectives:

Club members and parents will:

- Learn how to be an effective ambassador for the 4-H program

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies

- Pencils
- Easel paper
- Tape
- Markers
- Handouts:
 - o YOU are a 4-H Ambassador!

Do ahead

- Review lesson.
- Gather equipment and supplies
- Copy handouts, one per member
- Tape easel paper to the wall of the meeting room

YOU are a 4-H Ambassador!

BACKGROUND

Club members and parents are ambassadors for 4-H! Positive word of mouth is our best promotional tool, so what they say to other youth, parents, and members of the community helps those people make the decision to become part of or to support the program. It's important that members of our 4-H family share a positive message about 4-H and all the great opportunities and skills it provides youth across the nation.

Many 4-H alumni attribute their success in life to their 4-H activities and opportunities. Most of us have been stopped at the fair or have had a classmate ask, "What is 4-H, anyway?" Ask members to recall their answer to that question. After the conversation was over did they think, "I wish I had told them...?" Members are the best promoters of 4-H, and being good at explaining what 4-H is will allow members to tell someone about 4-H in just two short minutes.

WHAT TO DO

Activity 1: The Value of 4-H - Give each member a copy of the handout to complete individually at the club meeting. You could pass these out as people arrive to the meeting. Allow members 5-7 minutes to write down ideas they have in answer to the three questions. Ask members to give their answers to each question, and record them on the easel paper to compile a master list of thoughts about why 4-H exists, what someone can expect to gain from being in 4-H, and about the value 4-H adds to their lives.

Develop the lists into bullet points that can be distributed to club members for them to consider and refer to when they serve as 4-H ambassadors, either formally or informally.



Sources

- “122 Ways to Build Teams” by Carol Scearce, 2007 Corwin Press Thousand Oaks, CA

Activity 2: The Two Minute 4-H Story – Divide the members into small groups, with a teen or adult to provide leadership. Have the members of each group work on developing their own “Two Minute 4-H Story,” using some of the points discussed in

the previous activity. Ask members to share their stories with the group, and have group members provide positive feedback. The more often members share their stories, the more natural doing so will feel.

Remind members of the old adage, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” That’s true of 4-H, as well. We all experience the occasional disappointment or are unhappy with the result of a show or judging, but these short-term issues are often learning opportunities that help us grow and improve for the future. Don’t dwell on the negative. Focus on the positive and make the experience part of your 4-H story!

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- What new things did you learn about 4-H from others’ responses?
- Did you have trouble answering the questions on the handout?

Apply:

- How will the ideas shared by others help you recruit new members for your club?
- Where might you tell your 4-H story?

ADDITIONAL LINKS

- View some member success stories online at: <http://www.4-h.org/about/revolution/stories-of-responsibility/>

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