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Planning a 4-H Cloverbud Family Night

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 Learn more about this activity from the author at: <https://youtu.be/JvgheXDVd0Q>

I woke up one morning thinking, “What if little kids were the only ones in the world who could drive?” They would own big clunky cars that would only go about 10 miles an hour and parents would have to ask them for rides to get places. When I thought about it later, I decided that 4-H Cloverbud meetings would probably be better attended. They would have a chance to see their friends. Doctors’ offices and grocery stores would probably struggle to survive. Well, anyway, it was just a dream.

The fact is- Cloverbuds depend on their parents to get them to our meetings. When they miss, it probably isn’t their fault. Parents probably had to put something else first- work, the grocery store, banking, etc. What can we do as Cloverbud advisors to move our meetings up the ladder of importance in our parents’ minds? I suggest a Family Night event early in the year so parents can see why their Cloverbuds need to be at the meetings.



A Family Night event does not have to be difficult. I would suggest 4-5 activities that families can do together at their own pace. I would also suggest a short session where everyone could meet together as a group. Your activities may include a story, a craft, a game, a snack, and maybe a song or two. Another idea is to present the parents with an overview of the lessons you will be teaching during the upcoming months and why they won’t want their children to miss out on a single one.

I would also be sure to allow time for parents to have time to meet and talk to each other. This could be helpful on meeting dates when parents can’t get their Cloverbuds to a meeting. Parents may want to discuss car pool ideas to make it easier for everyone to get there.

One game idea for the evening is a Family Bingo game. (The Bingo card is included with this article.) Allow parents some time to go through the card with their Cloverbuds to see how many squares they can answer. Then bring all the families together to share what they’ve learned. They may find things they have in common with other families and form friendships based on those commonalities. Family friendships will make our clubs stronger.



Throughout the event, be sure that parents realize that 4-H Cloverbuds is about building life skills including self-understanding, social interaction, learning to learn, physical mastery, and decision-making. Each activity should reinforce at least one of these life skills.



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Favorites	Ancestors	Me	Inside	Life	Yuck
What is your favorite place in the world?	Where is your family from?	What is your full name? How did your parents choose it?	I am happiest when _____	One of our family traditions is _____	The worst storm I remember was _____
What was your favorite vacation ever?	What do you know about your grandparents?	When and where were you born? Find out about that day.	I am saddest when _____	I do my homework without complaining. True or False.	The one who gets in trouble the most in my family is _____
Does your family have any favorite funny stories?	Do you know any stories about relatives you never met?	What is something you do well?	I get angry when _____	On Saturday, we usually _____	I got in trouble when _____
What is your favorite holiday?	Who is the oldest person in your family that you actually know?	What chores are you responsible for?	I am afraid when _____	On Sunday, we usually _____	My least favorite thing that my family does is _____
What is your family's favorite restaurant?	Does your family have any heirlooms (items of sentimental value)?	What do you want to do when you grow up?	I am proud when _____	One fun thing my family does regularly is _____	The world would be better off if there were no _____