



Iowa

4-H volunteer

Southeast Area 4-H Update

belonging...generosity...independence...mastery



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After School Clubs Flourish

Two after school 4-H Clubs brought new choices to Scott County youth this program year. McKinley Elementary 4-H Club and Buchanan Elementary 4-H Club meet twice a month, the first meeting being for business and the second for an educational workshop. At the workshop, 4-H'ers pursue a project of their own choosing. Both clubs have a camping and electricity emphasis this year. Jenni Perrin, the 4-H staff member leading the two clubs, says, "4-H after school gives these kids additional learning opportunities, but more importantly, it gives them an opportunity to learn about leadership in a fun and non-threatening setting. The children in these clubs have really taken ownership and responsibility in their clubs and are proud of their contributions at meetings. Scott County Extension is excited to explore how the traditional 4-H Community Club model operates within an after-school setting."



Photo courtesy of Tracey Lamm/
Daily Democrat

FMMS students participate in a trustbuilding activity during youth leadership workshops.

Leadership Opportunities Offered in Middle School

Henry County continued its second year of targeting future 4-H Council members with leadership workshops. This year Fort Madison Middle School students participated. The workshops were sponsored by Ft. Madison SAFE Coalition and presented by Iowa State University Extension Lee County staff. Based on the 4-H curriculum, "Unlock Your Leadership Potential," the program promotes and empowers youth as leaders. Workshop activities build skills in communication, decision-making, managing, developing learning strategies, and working with others. Previous programs targeted high school students.

Get These Great New Leadership Resources

Looking for resources to teach leadership to your 4-H'ers? Do you need resources for that 4-H'er who has leadership potential just waiting to be tapped? The latest 4-H leadership publication, *Step Up To Leadership*, is available to all 4-H members and leaders. You can order the curriculum directly from www.n4hccs.org or contact your local Extension Office to order the materials. Optional materials include two mentor guides, a workbook, a journal, a portfolio, or the set of five books. The cost per book varies from \$3 to \$5 (about \$22 for all five books). These are great materials; we encourage you to use them!

Workshop Pairs Caring Adults with Kids

One value of educational workshops is that they can bring together caring



adults to share their expertise with youth. Muscatine 4-H put together one such workshop in July 2004, when it offered an all-day fishing workshop at Discovery Park in cooperation with West Liberty Public Library, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Fairport Fish Hatchery, and the Muscatine County Conservation Board. The workshop paired a youngster with a caring adult to share an afternoon of fishing. In the morning participants took part in a variety of activities such as fishing golf to help learn casting skills, learn how to make pop-can fishing rigs, identify common game fish of Iowa and their parts, and learn different lures and how they are used in fishing. A biologist from the Fairport Fish Hatchery brought a huge freshwater tank and concluded the morning with a "show and tell" program with live fish for the participants. Lunch was a fish-fry with catfish provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The day's activities were topped off with two hours of free fishing with adult fishing buddies. Most of the children fished with poles on loan from the Fairport Fish Hatchery and the Muscatine County Conservation Board.



CLUB ACTIVITY

Ideas for Effective Club Decision Making

Try one of these group decision-making processes at your 4-H club meetings. **Johnson and Cedar County** 4-H leaders offer these as ways to involve youth in club decision making and to effectively use time at club meetings.

Rank-Order—Sit in a circle with one person acting as a recorder of ideas. Ideas are shared in a “**round robin**” until all ideas are recorded. If a person doesn’t have an idea, he/she may pass. If an idea has been listed already, it can’t be repeated. Go around the circle until there are no more ideas. Do not discuss the list. Everyone privately ranks his/her choice (1 = first choice; 2 = second) on a 3x5 card. The choices are tallied and shared.

Card Tally—Record several ideas on 5x7 cards or large sticky notes. Place the ideas on a wall. Appoint someone to serve as a **facilitator** to group ideas that are duplicated. Then you each go around and mark a #1 on the idea you prefer as first choice, a #2 on the second choice, and #3 on the third. Numbers are tallied and the idea grouping receiving the “lowest” number is the top choice. For this process, a Johnson County 4-H club distributes sticky notes as 4-H members arrive and asks members to list an idea for a club project on each note. This saves time during the meeting.

Brainstorm—Generate as many different ideas as possible in a set amount of time (3 to 5 minutes). Respect and value all ideas. Have recorder list ideas on a large sheet of paper. In the first round of voting, everyone votes on the ideas as many times as they choose. In the next round, everyone votes only for his/her top two choices. Use markers, stickers, or colored dots for voting. Ideas receiving the most votes become the group’s decision.

From “Step Up to Leadership, A Leadership Journal for Grades 6-8,” National 4-H Cooperative Curriculum System, Inc.

Thank-you Notes Teach a Lifelong Skill

Teaching youth to write thank-you notes is a simple act that goes a long way to help them become caring people. Here are a couple of ways to get members started.

- Share with youth that a gift-giver will feel good knowing the present is appreciated. The way you talk about thank-you notes will influence whether youth think of writing them as a chore or as something thoughtful they can do for someone who has done something thoughtful for them.
- Give youth choices and help make writing thank-you’s fun. Provide a variety of colorful paper, markers, glitter, and glue. Let them choose the ones they will use. Consider including photos with the note.
- Make the handwritten note a special message from the heart. Help youth understand the effort they put into creating a thank-you is just as valuable as the gift itself.
- Be a good example and write letters! Young people learn to be courteous and responsible by watching other adults.



Meet Your Youth Field Specialists



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ISU Extension Youth Field Specialists are staff who work to provide quality 4-H and youth programming to Iowans. Field Specialists serve 2 to 6 counties and collaborate with county 4-H staff to provide programming to both local 4-H clubs and schools. Feel free to contact any field specialist for assistance with your 4-H club or members.

... and justice for all

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