

The Do's and Don'ts of Being a 4-H Fan

A 4-H Fan can be a parent, guardian, sibling, grandparent, aunt/uncle and another significant adult or peer. Be your member's best 4-H FAN by following these simple do's and don'ts to help "Make the Best Better" for them.

1. Learn about 4-H to access all the positive youth development opportunities for your member and you.
2. Serve as a role model and an example for youth to learn sportsmanship, respect and cooperation.
3. Do not view your child as an extension of yourself. Do not view his or her success or failure as a reflection of your ability or worth.
4. Advise your member's project selection. Help them select an area in which they are interested, that they can accomplish, and one for which you can help furnish facilities, financing, materials and guidance.
5. Show your interest & enthusiasm for projects selected. Find out what your member needs to do and learn.
6. Encourage your 4-H'er to participate in skillathons, project judgings, camp and public speaking events.
7. Do not do the project for them even though you may be able to do it faster, better, and simpler.
8. Encourage your 4-H'er to keep up-to-date records and to follow through to completion projects and tasks undertaken.
9. Do not discourage enthusiasm by providing corrective influence.
10. Keep the purpose of the 4-H project in perspective. Realize that the project is simply a teaching method for involving youth in a meaningful activity. Above all, remember the 4-H member is more important than the 4-H project.
11. The 4-H experience is an educational one. Do not let the desire to win overpower the member's ability to learn.
12. Encourage your 4-H'er when they succeed and even more when they fail. Help them to see progress, not just the result. Keep in mind that the most important goal of 4-H is personal growth of the individual and not grand champion projects, but GRAND CHAMPION KIDS!
13. Support the club advisors and cooperate to help provide meaningful, educational, youth-directed programs. Help with fundraising events or special activities. Volunteer your hobbies and talents. Transport your member to and from meetings, events and activities.
14. Attend special events planned by the 4-H club (family night, recognition program).
15. See that your 4-H'er attends all meetings, activities, and events as scheduled by the local 4-H club. Notify the advisor if unable to participate/attend. Avoid scheduling family vacations that conflict with your member's 4-H schedule (skillathon, project judging, fair dates, camp, etc.).
16. Ask yourself why your 4-H member joined 4-H. If it is purely for competition, ribbons, auction dollars, trophies and awards, you will be disappointed fan. If it is so they can learn and grow in a meaningful FUN way, you and your member will be satisfied with the 4-H experience.

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