

4-H Parent / Guardian Meeting Outline

- I. **Supplies:** Name tags for parents/guardians and members
- II. **Refreshments** – Cold or hot drinks and a snack of your choice.
- III. **Get Acquainted** – Prepare and conduct a mixer to allow parents/guardians and members to become acquainted with other 4-H families.
- IV. **Introduction**

Successful 4-H clubs have parents/guardians that: 1) are aware of what is happening, 2) understand what is happening and 3) do everything in their power to support their child's 4-H experience.

This is why we are meeting with you! To inform, help you understand and seek your support.
- V. **What is 4-H?** Largest out of school non-formal educational program in world.
 1. Focuses on building well rounded youth and adults/development of Head, Heart, Hands, Health.
 2. Uses "Learn By Doing" philosophy of Experiential Education, the most effective educational method known by research.
 3. Experiential learning comes to life through Project Work – Projects – Meetings – Tours – Field Trips – Fair – Camp – Workshops – Skillthons – Judging – Recognition – And So Much More.
 4. Our Ultimate goal is to develop
 - Leadership Skills (helping individuals and groups accomplish goals)
 - Citizenship (a sense of community pride and democratic action)
 - Social Skills (communicating and getting along with people)
 - Knowledge (the why's for doing things)
 - Physical Skills (how do things sew, saw, cook, etc.)
 - Decision Making Skills (how to make decisions that are right for them)
 - Responsibility – Commitment – Work
 - Self Confidence – Self Esteem (so they can feel good naturally, not artificially)
 5. Program offered under the direction of Ohio State Extension Educators through a network of 4-H adult & teen volunteers.
 6. A network of club advisors and volunteers are giving leadership to 4-H club experiences with the support and help of parents/guardians/families.
 7. A 4-H club includes a series of meetings and learning experiences established by the advisors and officers with the membership.
- VI. **4-H IS NOT!**
 1. A place you drop your child off for babysitting. 4-H is a "Family Affair", a commitment to learning and growing together through fun, hands-on activities.
 2. A "fun" group you can drop in and out of whenever you want. 4-H does expect commitment to the club and completion of project work.

3. Just winning trophies and ribbons or making money at the fair through premiums and the livestock sale. 4-H is about learning, making friends, gaining life skills and becoming a competent, caring, contributing citizen.

VII. 4-H Experiential Learning Methods

1. Meetings – officers and committees
2. Projects – (the basis for individual and/or group study in an interest area).
3. Clinics and Workshops (project, career and leisure skill development)
4. Field Trips & Tours
5. Health and Safety Speaking & Demonstrations – (Club opportunities and County Contest)
6. 4-H Camp
7. Leadership Opportunities (Camp Counselor/CIT, Ambassador, Jr. Fair Board Member, CARTEEN Facilitator, Teen Leaders within the club, County Teen Council, Teens serving on county 4-H committees, etc.)
8. Community Service projects and activities (decided, planned and conducted by the membership)
9. Fair – (a place to showcase 4-H experiences within the community).
10. Recognition – certificates, pins, medals, awards and scholarships
11. Evaluation and Counseling – (skillathons and project judging to share competency and mastery in a project area).

VIII. The 4-H Family

- 4-H is a Family Affair encouraging participation of the member with a network of individual(s). All 4-H families are different, but each should include a primary support person, often a parent or guardian, that supports the member's 4-H experience. Siblings, grandparents, aunts/uncles, other adults and peers may also be part of the 4-H family or even the primary support person for a member. The key is developing a relationship with someone(s) who cares about the member.
- 4-H is a great way for parents/guardians to spend quality time with each other – learning and growing together the 4-H Way.

IX. 4-H Youth Will Need Parental Support To

Minimum

- a) Select a project (or projects), help your member be realistic. Consider age, experience, financial, and physical resources.
- b) Secure project materials, equipment, supplies or resources including animals.
- c) Complete the project – book, records, and requirements.
- d) Fulfill their officer or committee responsibilities.
- e) Transport to club meetings and activities and attend meetings/activities with them when possible.
- f) Read all 4-H materials with your member – received in the mail or brought home from meetings.
- g) Organize 4-H information to keep track of applications, registrations, deadlines, materials, etc.
- h) Attend project clinics and participate with them to learn together.
- i) Complete project exhibits for judging and attend judging, skillathons and other project evaluations.
- j) Prepare and practice a demonstration and/or speech for the club or a county contest.
- k) Complete award forms to apply for county awards, scholarships, achievement and trip opportunities.
- l) Take the initiative to expand their leadership skills by becoming a Camp Counselor/CIT, Ambassador, Jr Fair Board Member, CARTEEN Facilitator, etc.

Maximum

- a) Share a skill or talent through teaching a skill or presenting a program at a club meeting.
- b) Host a club meeting at your home.
- c) Participate in club activities.
- d) Provide input, share ideas to help advisors, officers and the membership plan the 4-H year.
- e) Encourage and help members participate in beyond club activities and events.
- f) Sponsor awards, recognition, and scholarships for members.

Important Note: A parent/guardian should always be in a support role – never leading. When parent/guardian assumes more of a leadership than a support role, it is time for that parent/guardian to become a 4-H volunteer!

Written by Ken Lafontaine, OSU Extension, 4-H Educator, Hardin County.