

New Family Orientation Meeting Outline

Purpose

Orient the families of new 4-H members

- About the 4-H program and its educational opportunities;
- About their responsibilities as partners of the 4-H team;
- About ways they can support volunteer leaders;
- About ways they can take an active role in club work.

Supplies Needed

- New 4-H Family Orientation Booklet
- 4-H Parent/Guardian Expectation List
- Ohio 4-H Family Guide
- Club Program with dates and club information
- County 4-H Calendar, Project Selection & Requirement Information (optional)

Time Needed – 45 to 60 minutes

I. Opening

- a) Introduce yourself and have parents introduce themselves and tell why their child chose to join 4-H.
- b) Briefly cover the outline and topics to be covered.
- c) Pass out the “New 4-H Family Orientation” Booklet

II. 4-H Basics

- a) Review the “What is 4-H” and “What is a 4-H Club” sections of the “New Family Orientation to 4-H” booklet. Allow time for questions on 4-H basics.

III. Parent’s Responsibility

- a) Review the “4-H Parent/Guardian Expectation List” handout. Cover the points quickly. Allow time for questions.

IV. 4-H Projects

- a) Review the “Projects” section of the “New 4-H Family Orientation” booklet. Emphasize project work and resources to assist with projects. Give each family a copy of the Ohio 4-H Family Guide. Review the “Completion” section of the “New 4-H Family Orientation” booklet. Include local club criteria and rules. Emphasize the positive value of success in project work. Allow

time for questions. Share Project Selection and Requirement Guidelines if available. (Check with your County Extension Educator for this guide and additional resources on completion requirements.).

V. 4-H Club Meetings

- a) Review the "4-H Club Meeting" section of the "New 4-H Family Orientation" booklet. Describe how your club functions within the county and state 4-H club guidelines. Share information about business, education and social activity at club meetings. Share meeting requirements and expectations. Allow time for questions.

VI. Activities

- a) Briefly review your club program and the important events of the county 4-H program. Expect questions from families on the "nuts & bolts" of the 4-H program. Parents and guardians will be especially interested in this part of the meeting, since it will help them plan within their family schedules. Pass out your Club Calendar or Program Plan and a copy of the County 4-H Calendar, if available.

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