

4-H Cloverbud Club Activities

Every 4-H Cloverbud meeting includes a portion of time (30-40 minutes) known as the “activity period.” This segment of the meeting is dedicated to improving the knowledge and skills of your 4-H Cloverbud members. Since 4-H Cloverbud members do not take individual projects, it is especially important that this portion of the meeting meet the interests and needs of your members.

Resources such as the 4-H Cloverbud curriculum will assist you. These materials are designed to help you present a subject of interest to your members that incorporates five general life skills areas including self-esteem, getting along with others, physical mastery, decision making, and learning how to learn

The activities are “user friendly,” include the use of easy-to-get supplies, and provide ample activities that easily adjust to your teaching style as well as to your members’ needs. Subject areas include: healthy life styles, environmental/earth science, citizenship/civic education, plants and animals, consumerism/family science, science and technology, personal development, and community/expressive arts.

For your convenience, each lesson includes a background information section followed by a recommended teaching plan. The following is an overview of the teaching plan learning activities.

Learning Activities - Consists of Five Main Components:

(Under each component an example activity is given from 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum Series II, Curriculum Piece: Ant Antics - part of the “Plants and Animals” subject area.

1. **Getting Started** (3-4 activities ranging from 4-7 minutes each). Activities that introduce, familiarize, and sensitize the learners to the topic. Songs, stories and games work well here.

Example Activity: Ant ANTatomy (children create an ant using marshmallows, toothpicks, and pipe cleaners).

2. **Digging Deeper** (3-7 activities ranging from 4-10 minutes each). Activities that involve exploration of the topic. They are focused, hands-on activities.

Example Activity: Ant City Part I (children make an ant farm).

3. **Looking Within** (2-3 activities ranging from 3-5 minutes each). Activities that help learners understand how to apply what they learn to their daily lives. This may include circle time where learners share their feelings or experiences.

Example Activity: Ant Artists (children create, draw, and color ants and habitats).

4. **Bringing Closure.** Designed to help members celebrate their experiences with the group. It can be as simple as a follow-up game or a snack idea that relates to the topic.

Example Activity: The Ant Song (children sing a song to the tune of “Johnny Comes Marching Home”).

5. **Going Beyond.** Ideas for follow-up at home or after the meeting, which might include a letter to parents outlining what was taught, discussed, and experienced.

Example Activity: Our Very Own Ant Farm (if children wish they can purchase an ant farm kit to enjoy with their family).

Select one learning activity from three or four of the five components during a single 4-H Cloverbud session. In doing so, you can select different activities from the same curriculum piece at future sessions. The most important thing to remember is to plan ahead, stay flexible, and allow the members to move at their own speed.

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