

4-H Volunteer Leaders' Series

4-H Activity Directory

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Purpose of Activities

4-H activities are another way of learning and are comparable to extracurricular school activities. They help broaden the young person's development of skills for living. These activities are optional, and each member can choose the activities in which he or she will participate. Usually the activity is of shorter duration than the 4-H project.

4-H activities can be planned at the club, county, state and national levels. Some activities support members' projects; others help 4-H'ers relate to the larger community; still others develop communication skills.

Other things that community clubs plan and carry out are group activities that will support a club's particular interests and needs. These activities include tours; outings such as roller skating or camping trips; member, parent and leader recognition events; fund-raising activities; and holiday parties, among others.

Types of Activities

Activities are scheduled each year on a club, county, state and national basis to supplement the work in the local clubs. These activities provide

opportunities for 4-H members to have new experiences, meet new people and enlarge their circle of friends. Some activities are also used to acquaint the public with the 4-H program and to gain understanding and support for 4-H.

4-H activities are categorized as follows:

Club Activities

Each local 4-H club usually plans some special activities of its own such as a tour or field trip, a party or picnic, or a special program or activity for parents. Where there is a 4-H activity leader to coordinate activities for the club, the leader will coordinate the activities for the entire club. These may include a community service project or a special educational program such as a film or speaker where all 4-H members are invited to participate.

County Activities

The objectives of every county 4-H activity should be defined clearly and understood by the members and their parents. A well-balanced program of activities would include, as a minimum, the following:



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A Planning Activity – The county 4-H officers and the county leaders hold a joint meeting to make general plans for the county 4-H activity program. Those plans might include selection of activities and the dates they are to be conducted and appointment of a committee for each activity. The detailed planning of the various activities should be done by its own committee.

A Recreational Activity – A picnic, day camp or similar activity that is, in part, informal and largely recreational is usually planned for the entire 4-H enrollment in the county.

County camps are good recreational activities if facilities are available. A site with protected sleeping quarters, sanitary water supply, eating quarters, accessibility to general supplies and space for recreation and games is necessary for a successful camp. There must also be a well-defined plan of what is to be done. The program should be varied among play, work and rest. Several good leaders willing to assist in the camp are necessary to its success.

A Competitive Activity – Several counties conduct a number of competitive activities. Some hold all on one day and call it a “County 4-H O-Rama,” while other counties hold separate activities. These activities are designed to encourage members to participate and achieve honors. A “County 4-H O-Rama” usually includes some of the same activities that are conducted at the district and/or state 4-H O-Ramas such as fashion revue, tractor driving, entomology, bicycle, judging contests, method demonstrations and talent numbers. It is usually a day of participation and achievement with awards such as ribbons or trophies given. Whether held on one day or scattered throughout the year, competitive activities require good planning and organization. A large number of adult 4-H leaders must be involved in conducting the activities, and a number of other people in the county must serve as judges.

An Exhibit Activity – Exhibit activities such as county fairs, 4-H fairs or livestock shows provide an opportunity for members to display the results of their projects and to obtain recognition for outstanding work. They also provide an opportunity to focus public attention on 4-H work.

Another type of an exhibit activity is the “show window,” in which exhibits, by clubs or individual members, are displayed in show windows of stores, offices, banks, etc.

A Recognition Activity – The main objectives for this activity are:

1. To provide recognition for outstanding work by members, for cooperation by parents, for leadership by adults and for cooperation and sponsorship by business concerns, organizations and individuals.
2. To provide an opportunity for the county leadership to become familiar with 4-H goals, objectives and programs.
3. To create greater interest in 4-H work by focusing public attention on the work being done.
4. To provide an activity which is an honor to attend and which will be a goal for members to work toward. Members, leaders, sponsors and agents should all have some part on the program.

District Activities

District 4-H O-Rama – Four district 4-H O-Ramas are held each year. Over 30 competitive activities are scheduled for both junior and senior 4-H members. The top seniors from each activity are eligible to compete at the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama. Trophies and ribbons are awarded to the winners.

State Activities

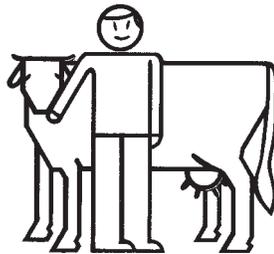
Arkansas 4-H O-Rama – The State 4-H O-Rama is a three-day activity usually held at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. Approximately 40 competitive activities are conducted. Only senior members, 4-H leaders, Extension agents and sponsors attend. The top senior winners from each district 4-H O-Rama are eligible to compete in the Arkansas 4-H O-Rama. Various recreational and educational programs are scheduled. State activity winners are recognized at an awards program. The state 4-H officers are elected during the State O-Rama.

Educational Tours – A variety of state 4-H educational tours are scheduled each year. These tours are designed to provide older 4-H members with additional information in specific project areas such as livestock, ecology, and forestry and wildlife. About 30 to 40 4-H'ers are selected to participate in each tour.

State 4-H Horse Show – This state 4-H activity is held in various locations throughout the state each July. 4-H members who are interested must participate in an area or district horse show prior to the state horse show.

Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show –

Outstanding 4-H members are encouraged to exhibit their livestock and poultry at the state show. This activity provides 4-H members an opportunity to show the public and their fellow 4-H members the kind of club work they are doing. It is also a means for obtaining recognition for outstanding project work. On “4-H Day” at the state fair a variety of educational and competitive activities are conducted. Cash prizes are awarded to the winners.



Other State Activities – Several other activities are conducted throughout the year on the state level. Some of these activities include Teen Leader Conference, CAPS and the 4-H Adventure and Challenge Camp. Each of these activities is fully explained in the “4-H Events” packet which is updated annually and which can be obtained at the county Extension office.

National Activities

National 4-H Conference – The National 4-H Conference is held each year in Washington, D.C., under the direction of the United States Department of Agriculture. Five youth from each state attend. Delegates stay at the National 4-H Center and participate in many conferences, seminars and city tours. They spend a day on Capitol Hill.

National 4-H Congress – This is the largest 4-H activity in the nation. It is held annually in a major U.S. city. State project winners from Arkansas and the other states attend. This program includes tours of the city, group discussions, a fashion revue and recognition banquets.

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