

4-H Volunteer Leaders' Series

Strengthening Our Club

Diane F. Jones, Ed.D.
Extension Family and
Consumer Sciences
Specialist

Use this sheet with the adult volunteers of your leadership team. It suggests the kind of criteria which indicate a strong 4-H club and which can be measured. Writing these kinds of goals for your club lets you measure progress by counting what is occurring.

Choose only a few (3-6) of these to work on in any year. No single club would ever achieve all of these at the same time.

I Believe Our 4-H Club Will Be Stronger If . . .

Each Member

- _____ attends and participates in more than half of our business meetings each year.
- _____ receives printed project materials for each project in which enrolled.
- _____ re-enrolls the following year.
- _____ completes at least two projects each year.
- _____ participates in at least one county or state event each year.
- _____ has opportunity to participate in project group with meetings for each project in which enrolled.
- _____ has input into the process of planning the annual club program.
- _____ can recognize the life skills, and chooses experiences which foster development of the life skills.
- _____ participates in at least six hours of planned learning activity each year.
- _____ participates in or gives leadership to planned recreation on two occasions each year.



*18 U.S.C. 707

Visit our web site at:
<http://www.uaex.edu>

**Each Parent
(or Parent Couple)**

- _____ is helped to understand the parent's role in supporting project work of member at home.
- _____ receives regular communications about club program and activities.
- _____ is invited each year to accept a "helper" or "leadership" role in the club.
- _____ receives a personal invitation to attend and participates in at least one meeting each year.
- _____ is helped to understand the mission of 4-H and of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and is familiar with concepts of life skills and human development.
- _____ has input into the process of planning the annual club program.

**Each Officer or
Teen Leader**

- _____ sets achievable goals for each year.
- _____ receives guidance in planning for the project or role has accepted.
- _____ participates in a county, state or national event which promotes growth in leadership skills.
- _____ gives leadership to one or more segments of a club program.
- _____ meets with a group of other youth leaders for learning and friendship.

Each Adult Leader

- _____ has a sense of belonging to the leadership team and is committed to the 4-H program.
- _____ understands the mission of 4-H and of the Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service.
- _____ has received printed resources for the job which has been accepted.
- _____ has another experienced leader to whom to turn for help if needed.
- _____ has clearly identified opportunity for personal growth as part of the commitment to club leadership.
- _____ can clearly articulate 4-H life skills and helps members plan to achieve these.
- _____ has received training for the job which has been accepted.
- _____ has opportunity to assume increasingly responsible positions with increasing leadership experience.
- _____ has a clearly identified role (job description).

Our Club

- _____ holds at least ten meetings of the full club each year.
- _____ conducts a program planning process in which all members and families are involved.
- _____ plans a community service activity or project each year.
- _____ has an annual plan with clearly stated measurable goals for the year and for each meeting.
- _____ works with members to assure that 80 percent of projects for which members enroll are completed each year.
- _____ encourages members to enroll in more advanced phases of projects completed.
- _____ maintains enrollment next year at the same or higher level.
- _____ 80 percent of all members attend one county, state or national event during each year.
- _____ involves a range of resource persons from the community in presenting the club program.
- _____ cooperates with other youth groups as appropriate.
- _____ provides training for parents to enable them to support project work at home.
- _____ includes members who are of a minority race or are handicapped or underprivileged.
- _____ invites all members and families to help evaluate meetings in which they participate and to decide the degree to which the club has met its goals for the year.
- _____ maintains a ratio of one identified and committed adult leader for each four members enrolled.
- _____ organizes another 4-H club and helps the club get off to a good start.

Reprinted for use in Arkansas from materials developed by Faye Caskey and Dan Lindsey, University of Minnesota Extension Service.

DIANE F. JONES is family and consumer sciences specialist,
Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Arkansas. The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, disability, marital or veteran status, or any other legally protected status, and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.