



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

PROGRAM IDEAS

SET 2

Month 1	<p>September</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Since this is your first 4-H club meeting of the year, it may be a good idea to have a leader, county Extension agent, or teen leader talk to 4-H members about the many opportunities in 4-H. Provide each 4-H family with a copy of the "4-H Clover" which includes a project selection guide, along with a list of the many opportunities 4-H has to offer.• National 4-H Week is coming up next month! Have your club develop some strategies to market 4-H in your local community. After deciding your marketing approach, have 4-H club members actually develop the marketing tools, such as decorating posters, writing public service announcements for the radio, and writing announcements to be given at school.
Month 2	<p>October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Record books are usually focused upon in the spring. However, many 4-H parents say they wish they knew what is necessary to complete a record book prior to a couple months before the due date. So, October is a great time to have a program on record keeping skills. Have a 4-H club leader, or teen leader, give a presentation on how to keep records, the different methods involved, and what records need to be kept for the purposes of completing a 4-H Record book.• Since National 4-H Week is celebrated this month, have some 4-H members present their illustrated talk from the "promote 4-H" category. It is okay if the presentation they use was one they competed with the previous year! Invite a county 4-H Ambassador to your 4-H club meeting and have them give a 4-H promotion presentation. You can also set up a 4-H Fact Quiz Bowl. Let your 4-H members form teams of four and run a small tournament. Information on the history and facts of 4-H can be found on the online 4-H management guide. This also gives 4-H members the opportunity to learn about quiz bowls.
Month 3	<p>November</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The fall is definitely here and many youth and adults are geared up for some hunting! This is a great time to focus on hunting and shooting safety. Invite a 4-H member to give a talk on gun/shooting safety. You can also invite a Texas Parks and Wildlife representative to talk to your 4-H club members about the rules and regulations involved in the hunting of various animals.• November, around the Thanksgiving holiday, is usually a popular time of giving. Invite a representative from your local food bank or Salvation Army to talk to your 4-H club members about their operation, who they serve, and the manpower it takes to run such a service. In turn, your 4-H members can then assist the organization through community service after learning more about it.
Month 4	<p>December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the holidays, many people tend to eat, eat, and eat at all the holiday festivities that are celebrated. For a 4-H club program, invite some of your older 4-H members to do a presentation on healthy eating during the holidays. The 4-H members will love to help make some healthy snacks and taste them, as well!• December is a month of lots of shopping, as everyone is getting geared up for the holidays. When buying gifts for others, many try to watch every penny spent. Invite a 4-H adult leader or 4-H member to talk about consumer skills, what to look for when buying certain products, and how to set up and stick to a budget. This is also a great opportunity to highlight the consumer life skills project and consumer decision making contest. Choose a few items that are popular gifts this year, and have your presenter set up a "class" to be judged by 4-H members and parents in attendance. This can also serve as a great recruitment tool for the consumer decision making teams. The 4-H Consumer Decision Making Guide can be found on the Texas 4-H Website and is a great tool to use when selecting products and determining what to look for when purchasing a specific product.



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Month 5	<p>January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> January is traditionally known as the kick-off of “stock show season,” with major shows starting and many getting ready for their county show. “Quality Counts” is a curriculum that was developed and designed to teach young people the importance of displaying good character in carrying out livestock projects and in every aspect of their lives, also helping youth and adult leaders learn the importance of using proper livestock management practices so that food quality and safety are preserved. Invite a 4-H adult leader or experienced 4-H member to present a program on Quality Counts and what a 4-H member’s responsibility is in regard to this quality assurance, character education program. Remember all those photos taken over the holidays? Have 4-H members each bring a favorite photo they have recently taken and have your club’s own photography display. You can have someone there to critique the photos, pointing out the positive qualities of the photograph and teach the 4-H members how to improve them. A professional photographer may also be willing to give a presentation on how to take good photos and how the developing process works. A 4-H member may also be able to give a presentation on cameras, how to use them, and what to focus on in taking pictures. This is also a good opportunity to promote the 4-H photography project and contest.
Month 6	<p>February</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is time to gear up for 4-H public speaking! At this time in the 4-H year, youth should be preparing their illustrated talks and/or method demonstrations. Allow your 4-H club members to practice their presentation by presenting them at your 4-H club meeting. This is also a great way to get more 4-H members involved in the 4-H public speaking opportunities. Be prepared to distribute information on your County 4-H Roundup contest, including the contest date, entry deadline, and contest categories. The 4-H Public Speaking Guide is also a great tool to provide to your 4-H club members. Note: If you have a large number of 4-H’ers participating in this and wanting to present, you may want to schedule half to present in February and half to present in March.
Month 7	<p>March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Now that 4-H members have been given the opportunity to learn how to keep records in their project areas, it is time to put those records into the format of a 4-H Record book. At your March meeting, have a county Extension agent, adult leader, or experienced 4-H member talk to your club members about putting a 4-H Record book together for competition. This is also a good time to let your 4-H members know what awards are available in your county and how to apply for them (i.e. Gold Star, Silver Star, Bronze Star, etc.) Leadership is one important skill that is emphasized and taught throughout all facets of the 4-H program. Have a 4-H member or adult leader talk to your 4-H club members about the many leadership opportunities available through the 4-H program, including the many opportunities available to youth in the summer (4-H Center activities, Leadership Lab, Texas 4-H Congress, etc.). “Putting the Pieces Together” is a leadership curriculum that is also available at each county Extension office and contains many activities and teaching points that focus on leadership development.
Month 8	<p>April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In April, we celebrate National Volunteer Week. This is a time where we recognize and honor the many volunteers that help make the 4-H program happen. In fact, volunteers are the foundation of the Texas 4-H Program. At your club meeting, honor your 4-H volunteers. You could even have a banquet or formal refreshment reception, hosted by your 4-H members, to honor and thank the many adults who give of their time to help your 4-H club. April also contains a celebration of our county governments during County Government Week. Invite a county official (county commissioner, county judge) to talk to your 4-H club about the county government process. This is also a great opportunity to show appreciation to your county commissioners for providing funds for your county’s Extension office staff, in turn supporting the 4-H program. Talking about a citizen’s right and responsibility to vote, in addition to the voting and election process, is also a good teaching topic for older 4-H members.
Month 9	<p>May</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since 4-H members are gearing up for the summer, invite someone (nurse, lifeguard, etc.) to come talk to your 4-H club about sun safety, water safety, and/or first-aid. This is also a good opportunity to invite a representative from your local Department of Recreational Services or YMCA to talk about the local summer programs being offered. Give a 4-H member a leadership opportunity and invite him/her to talk about the 4-H sportfishing project. They can turn it into a hands-on learning experience for 4- H’ers as they focus on fishing, safety when fishing, in addition to some rules and regulations in regard to fishing.