



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Club Manger's Checklist

- Have new members and leaders complete enrollment forms and collect (OR assist families in getting enrolled on 4-H Connect)
- Introduce new members
- Remind members of Club holiday gathering
- Discuss County and/or District Food Show, Food Challenge or other Fall events
- Discuss upcoming contests (ie: 4-H Round-up, Share the Fun, Quiz Bowls, Consumer Decision Making – these contests will vary by District)
- Distribute 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Applications to eligible senior members and announce any County or District Scholarship Training opportunities. Also encourage high school juniors to attend the training so that they can get a head start on scholarships for next year.
- Recognize participants/winners in recent County and District events
- County Council Delegate give report from meeting
- Plan and implement Community Service Projects

After Meeting

- Turn in all member/leader forms (if applicable)
- Turn in monthly attendance sheet & reports (OR report on 4-H Connect Club Manager Login Site)

Cultivating Children of Character

The proper time to influence the character of a child is about a hundred years before he's born.
William R. Inge, American playwright (1913-1973)

Looking for some resources to share with parents of your 4-H members on character? Check out these resources from the National Character Education Center at: <http://www.ethicsusa.com/parents.cfm>



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Recreation

I Remember – We Remember

Concept: Why do we advocate working together? What can a group of people accomplish that a single person working alone couldn't do just as well? What does the statement "Two heads are better than one" really mean? Working together is not just a phrase that makes people feel better. By combining our efforts we really can accomplish more than we can individually. There is a certain synergy that comes from combining our talents. The brainstorming of ideas is more efficient when more than one brain is involved. People bring different talents to the table and can use those talents as part of a group to better solve problems or create solutions.

Time Estimate: 20 minutes plus discussion time

Materials Needed:

- A pen or pencil for each person
- A piece of paper for each person
- 6 teacher-created lists of words
- A watch with a second hand

Activity: You will need to prepare six lists of words before starting the activity. The first two lists should have fifteen words on them. The next two lists should have twenty words on them and the last two lists should have thirty words on them. You may write the lists on overhead transparencies or large sheets of paper. You will use the lists one at a time, so they must be on separate sheets with a way to cover up and uncover the words. You can utilize random words or you can use words that are part of lessons that you have been studying.

To begin the activity, give each person a piece of paper and a writing utensil. Explain that you are going to show them a list of words. They will have thirty seconds to study the list. They may not do any writing during the study time. After the thirty second study time, the object will be for them to write down as many words as they can remember from the list. You can adjust the times to meet the ability level of your group. Now uncover one of the lists of fifteen words for thirty seconds. Let them study the list. After covering the list back up, give them thirty to forty-five seconds to write what they remember. After the writing period, uncover the list again and have them count how many words they got correct. For every word that is correct they get one thousand points. Share the results with the entire group. Repeat the process a second time with a new list of fifteen words.

For the next round have them get with a partner. Repeat the process twice, using the list of twenty words. They will use one piece of paper between the two of them and only one person may write down words. For the last round have them get in groups of four. Repeat the process using the lists of thirty



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December: Recreation

I Remember – We Remember (continued)

Discussion Ideas:

“What” Questions

- How many words were you able to remember when you worked alone?
- How many words were you able to remember when you were working with a partner?
- How many words were you able to remember when you worked in a group?
- What techniques did you use when you worked alone to help you remember?
- What techniques did you use when you worked with others to help you remember?

“So What” Questions

- How does this activity show that working together helps to increase what we can do?
- What made your scores go up as other people helped create the list?
- What does the phrase “Two heads are better than one” mean?
- How can people from different backgrounds help us to solve problems?

“Now What” Questions

- How can working together improve our results?
- What can we do if we want to complete a job faster or better?

From: “Still More Activities That Teach” by Tom Jackson



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December: Community Service

Kids Need Coats

With cooler weather upon us in December, some kids may not have the necessary clothing items to help keep them warm. Conduct a clothing drive to collect items like coats, gloves, and scarves and then distribute to individuals, local clothing rooms, or charitable organizations.

Puppy Love

Conduct a donation drive for your local animal rescue shelter. Collect items like canned food, chew toys, old newspapers, etc. Be sure and ask your shelter what they need most.

Adopt an animal shelter. Ask families to sign up to assist the shelter in cleaning out pens each month.

Organize a free pet flea bath in your community to promote healthy pets.



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Flag Ceremony

Making The Flag

Supplies: Large Pot
Red, White and Blue Construction Paper, cut into squares
Sheet of star stickers
Large Wooden Spoon
American Flag, folded
Note: Before ceremony, place the folded flag in the pot.

Today we want to look at the ingredients that make up our flag.

First is the ingredient of Valor. Red is for Valor. For the courage of all women who with a dream in their hearts crossed the oceans to begin life in a free land. For the bravery of women who with hope and faith crossed the prairie and mountains of our vast land. For the steadfastness of those women who through all adversities shouldered the Country's burdens to emerge as strong individuals. (Put red paper squares in the pot) Our next ingredient is Purity. White is for Purity. For the integrity of all people whose fortitude wove the strands of diverse cultures into an integral national heritage. For the piety of all people whose faith formed the foundation upon which our Country was built and continues to grow. (Put white paper squares in the pot) Our next ingredient is Justice. Blue is for Justice. For the foresight of all those women who created an atmosphere in which each of their children could develop to their fullest potential. For the perseverance of all those women who contributed their talents to further the development of our Country. (Put blue paper squares in the pot)

Our last ingredient is Dreams. Stars represent Dreams. For the dreams of the future that the generations of tomorrow may fulfill the promise of the past 200 years, so that the visions of our Fore-fathers will be revitalized and the future will hold hope and promise for all generations to come. (Put sheet of stars in the pot)

(Stir the pot) Stirring are the stories of my Stars and Stripes. I symbolize the soul of America, typifying her ideals and aspirations, her institutions and traditions. (Remove the flag from the pot) This flag, which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of our unity, our power, and thought and purpose as a Nation.

Please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Motto and Pledge.



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December: Ice Breaker

Alter Ego

Kids are to introduce themselves and tell the group who they would most like to be other than themselves. They may name fictional characters or actual people, either living or dead. For example, kids could name Jean-Luc Picard from Star Trek: The Next Generation, Meryl Streep, Michael Jordan, or Joan of Arc. Kids should not explain their choices. Allow kids to enjoy the mystery of the “why” behind each other’s choices.

Variation

Have kids introduce themselves as the characters or persons they’d like to be and tell their real names later in the meeting or event.



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Inspiration and More

Gifts That Don't Cost a Cent

THE GIFT OF LISTENING

But you must REALLY listen. No interrupting, no daydreaming, no planning your response. Just listening.

THE GIFT OF AFFECTION

Be generous with appropriate hugs, kisses, pats on the back and handholds. Let these small actions demonstrate the love you have for family and friends.

THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER

Clip cartoons. Share articles and funny stories. Your gift will say, "I love to laugh with you".

THE GIFT OF A WRITTEN NOTE

It can be a simple "Thanks for the help" note or a full sonnet. A brief, handwritten note may be remembered for a lifetime, and may even change a life.

THE GIFT OF A COMPLIMENT

A simple and sincere, "You look great in red", "You did a super job" or "That was a wonderful meal" can make someone's day.

THE GIFT OF A FAVOR

Every day, go out of your way to do something kind.

THE GIFT OF SOLITUDE

There are times when we want nothing better than to be left alone. Be sensitive to those times and give the gift of solitude to others.

THE GIFT OF A CHEERFUL DISPOSITION

The easiest way to feel good is to extend a kind word to someone, really it's not that hard to say, Hello or Thank You.

Author: Unknown

Source: http://www.skywriting.net/inspirational/messages/gifts_that_don-t_cost_a_cent.html



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Program Idea

Safe Toys and Gifts

December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month. Have the Blue Santa or a program of this type come speak to the 4-H members about donating toys as community service for the holidays. The speaker could cover toy safety as well as information on the program. Turn the club meeting into a service project and ask members to bring a toy for the program and then make Christmas cards to attach with each toy.