



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Club Manager's Checklist

- Enroll any new 4-H members or leaders.
- Discuss District Food Show.
- Distribute 4-H Opportunity Scholarship Applications to eligible senior members and announce any District/County Scholarship trainings
- Discuss upcoming County Livestock Show
- 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 attendance sheets & reports.
- Turn in any new member or leaders enrollment forms.

Celebrate the Texas 4-H Centennial!

This year marks the 100 anniversary of Texas 4-H and we will be celebrating all year! Make a point to celebrate the Centennial each month! An idea or two be provided on each Club Manager's Checklist.

- Make 4-H Centennial Christmas cards using the "Make It Yours" theme and have members give to friends who are not members of 4-H. Include information on joining 4-H. If your club is hosting a Christmas Party, include an invitation to the party with the Christmascards to try and recruit new members!
- If your community has a Christmas Tree Decorating Contest, enter the contest and decorate the tree to symbolize the 100 year history of 4-H! If there's no contest, visit with a local bank or business to see if they will allow your club to decorate a tree in their business!



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December: Recreation

LITTLE ERNIE

Number of Players:

5 to 50+

Description of Game:

Little Ernie has a family and a story, but the story does not exist yet. It is made up on the spot by a storyteller.

Start by making lines with five or six people in each line. Have each line stand at least 5 feet from its nearest neighbors. The object is to have enough room between each line so that every line can have a player running around it at the same time without any of the runners colliding.

Each person in the line will get a role to play in the story about little Ernie and his family. The first person is little Ernie and the next people are members of his family, such as big sister, little brother, father, mother, grandparents, Spot the dog, Tiger the cat, and so on.

The leader then acts as storyteller. Later, we can change storytellers. Every time one of the people in the line is mentioned in the story, he or she must run around his or her whole line. If they "all" are mentioned, they all go.

The story goes on for a few minutes. It really gets to be fun if the characters act out the story as they run around. Generally, the story only lasts a few minutes, depending on the group's response. If the story is dragging, ask the storyteller to wind it up.



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Community Service

- Decorate a Christmas tree at a nursing home, hospital or homeless shelter.
- Visit a nursing home:
 - Make and give the residents Christmas cards.
 - Sing Christmas carols to the residents.
 - Coordinate a craft time for the residents.



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Flag Ceremony

OUR OWN RED, WHITE AND BLUE

There are many flags in many lands,
There are flags of many hue,
But there is no flag however grand,
Like our own red, white and blue.

Say hurrah for our flag,
Our country's flag,
It's stripes and it's bright stars too.
But there is no flag however grand,
Like our own red, white and blue.



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Ice Breaker

A GREAT CHRISTMAS ACTION STORY

Divide the group into nine smaller groups and assign each group one of the words listed below. Read the story on page 2. After each of the words is read pause for the group to make the appropriate response.

CHARACTER	RESPONSE
Santa Claus	(Hold belly and laugh) "HO, HO, HO."
Presents	(Spread arms and shout) "A new bike."
Greeting Cards	(Throw up hands and say) "Hang 'em on the wall."
Mom & Dad	(Scold with finger) "You'd better be good."
Holiday Dinner	(Shrug shoulders, hold up hands saying) "Where's the beef?"
Angels Do	"Twilight Zone" theme while flapping arms
Decorations	Sing "Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly!"
Snow	(Wrap arms around yourself and go) "Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrr"
Christmas	Everyone does their part all together at one time!



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Ice Breaker

A GREAT CHRISTMAS ACTION STORY

My favorite holiday is **CHRISTMAS** ____. I enjoy sending **GREETING CARDS** ____, I enjoy a big **HOLIDAY DINNER** ____, I enjoy the **SNOW** ____, but most of all, I enjoy **SANTA CLAUS** ____ bringing me lots of **PRESENTS** ____.

The house is filled with **DECORATIONS** ____. My favorite are silver **ANGELS** ____. I help **MOM AND DAD** ____ open the **GREETING CARDS** ____, fix the **HOLIDAY DINNER** ____, shovel **SNOW** ____, wrap **PRESENTS** ____, put up **DECORATIONS** ____, and polish the silver **ANGELS** ____. After we are finished, I leave out milk and cookies for **SANTA CLAUS** ____ while **MOM AND DAD** ____ clean up. I can hardly wait until **CHRISTMAS** ____ morning.

I race to the tree. I see **SANTA CLAUS** ____ has left me lots of **PRESENTS** ____, with little **GREETING CARDS** ____ on them. He's put some new **DECORATIONS** ____ on the tree, including some new silver **ANGELS** ____, and he has sprinkled the branches with **SNOW** ____. Of course, he has left some lovely grown-up gifts for **MOM AND DAD** ____.

So we sit down to eat our **HOLIDAY DINNER** ____ I turn on the radio and Frank Sinatra is singing "Hark the herald **ANGELS** ____ Sing"! **MOM AND DAD** ____ and I say grace and eat our **HOLIDAY DINNER** ____ while the **DECORATIONS** ____ twinkle all over the house. After dinner we look at the **GREETING CARDS** ____ one more time, and then go out for an afternoon stroll in the falling **SNOW** ____.

I tell you, that **SANTA CLAUS** ____ is quite a guy. He sure knows how to turn out a great **CHRISTMAS** ____.



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December: Inspiration and More

It is better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.

Fun Fact Trivia:

That Texas Ranch is larger than the state of Rhode Island?

The King Ranch

True or False: The Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport is slightly smaller than New York City's Manhattan Island.

False – it is larger!!!



ENHANCING THE CLUB EXPERIENCE.....

December: Program Idea

Adolescence can be a challenging time with youth experiencing biological, psychological, and social changes. Both normative stressor's (such as moving from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school), as well as non-normative stressor's (such as parental divorce) have been linked to an increased risk of behaviors such as depression and anxiety.

The holidays can also be a stressful time for youth as well as adults. With numerous holiday programs and parties to attend at school, church, 4-H, and in the community, in addition to maintaining daily activities such as academics, sports, and tending to livestock show projects it is easy to see how 4-H members can become stressed-out at this time. Youth also sense their parents' stress that builds up at this time too when shopping for Christmas gifts, preparing for guests, and of course dealing with the financial strain that often accompanies the holiday season. A short program on stress management/time management would be great this month!

Ideas for this program include:

- Invite a school counselor or youth development specialist to talk to the group on ways to reduce or manage stress.
- Have group brainstorm on ways they can reduce the stress in their lives as well as their parents'.
- Do a prioritization activity where youth prioritize their commitments