

CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION

DISTRICT 8 4-H CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION



Happy New Year!

As we begin this new 4-H year, I want to express my deep appreciation for your dedication. Your role is crucial in shaping the future by growing leaders and building a lasting legacy in our community.

This year's theme, "Growing Leaders, Building a Legacy," captures our mission perfectly. Your mentorship and guidance help empower our youth to become confident, responsible leaders. Every project, every interaction, is a step toward fostering leadership skills that will serve them for life.

Building a legacy means creating something that endures. The values and culture of service we instill today will benefit our community for years to come. As we focus on these principles, let's continue to inspire and lead by example, ensuring that the legacy of 4-H thrives well into the future.

Thank you for your commitment. Together, we will make this a remarkable year.

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District 8 4-H
Making the best better



Kick that 1st Meeting off with Fun!

Starting your new 4-H year on the right foot is crucial for ensuring a great, successful year with your club. Here are a few tips to help you kick off in style!

1. Ice Breaker Activities:

a. There are a plethora of resources out there with “get to know you” activities and Ice Breaker ideas.

Here are a few of my favorites:

i. 4-H Meeting BINGO! (download this template on the 4-H Club Manager Page on the D8 website)

ii. In Common (directions on the D8 Website)

iii. Find your match (this can be done as animals, as food, as people, etc. You make matches/groups based on what category you use, write those on index cards or post it notes. Each person receives a card. They will proceed to find their matches. Once in their pair/group, have them get to know each other. How long have they been 4-H? What are they interested in? etc.)

2. 4-H Overview

a. Give an overview of what families can expect for the year. What do your officers have planned?

Where are you headed? How can they get involved? (Pro tip: give them a handout with the same information)

3. Set Goals

a. Provide goal-setting worksheets where members can outline their personal objectives like “Learn to care for a calf,” or “Win a blue ribbon in photography.” After filling out the worksheets, have members share one goal with the group.

4. Introduce Officers and Club Leaders

a. Hold off on asking new members to introduce themselves. This can be daunting and overwhelming. Instead, introduce those running the club and have them tell a little bit about what they do.

b. If you would like for everyone to learn each other’s names, give everyone name badges.

5. Snacks and Games

a. End the meeting with a fun snack, craft, or recreation. This is a great way to ensure that your club left a fun mark on those in attendance, encouraging them to come back for month 2.

b. Games where everyone gets to play are a great time filler, and allow the students to have an activity while the adults get their questions answered.

Doing these things will go a long way in helping your club get off on the right foot and ensure that your members have a great first meeting. Remember, this meeting sets the tone for the entire year. If we get off on a boring and bland foot, you can expect the same for the entirety of the year.



Record Book-Goal Setting

As we begin a new 4-H year, setting clear goals is crucial for a successful experience. Whether members are new or returning, establishing personal and project goals helps them stay focused and motivated throughout the year.

One of the best tools for tracking progress and reflecting on achievements is the 4-H Record Book. This important document not only helps members organize their activities but also builds valuable life skills such as planning, time management, and self-reflection.

Setting Goals: Encourage members to start by setting specific, achievable goals for the year. These could range from mastering a new skill, like learning to sew or training an animal, to broader goals such as developing leadership qualities or completing a community service project. Writing down these goals in the record book provides a roadmap for the year and helps members stay on track.

Getting Started with Record Books:

1. Begin Early:

- Encourage members to start their record books at the beginning of the year. This allows them to document their progress regularly, making it easier to capture details and milestones.

2. Break It Down:

- Teach members to break down their goals into smaller, manageable steps. For example, if a member's goal is to show a lamb at the county fair, they can list tasks such as selecting the animal, learning feeding routines, and practicing showmanship.

3. Use Resources:

- Provide members with guides and templates from the Texas 4-H website to help them organize their record books. Hosting a record book workshop early in the year can also give members the confidence to get started.

4. Reflect and Adjust:

- Encourage members to regularly review their record books, updating them with new experiences and reflecting on their progress. This not only helps with goal achievement but also prepares them for end-of-year evaluations.

Setting goals and maintaining an organized record book, members not only document their 4-H journey but also gain a sense of accomplishment as they see their growth over the year. These habits lay the foundation for success in 4-H and beyond.

What's in a project?

WHAT IS....

Entomology

4-H PROJECT INFO

Did you know that nearly three-fourths of all animals are insects? Because there are so many insects, they impact our daily lives in both good and bad ways. In this 4-H project you will learn about entomology – the study of insects. You will learn about the insect world by studying, collecting and identifying various insects. This project is easy to afford because insects are free or inexpensive at pet stores or scientific supply houses. Because of their size, insects can be easily housed in small containers for observation. Learn how to identify, classify, collect and preserve insects and other arthropods.

Skills Learned:

- Insect Identification
- How insects affect our lives
- Insect Characteristics
- Insect management
- Classification of Insects
- Insect Collection

Project Learning Opportunities

- Learn through workshops
- Learn through insect collection hunts
- Learn through industry professionals
- Learn through making your own insect collection
- Learn through tours
- Learn through contests

Optional Opportunities:

- Entomology ID
- Insect Collections
- Beekeeping Essay



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WHAT IS....

Livestock Project

4-H PROJECT INFO

Livestock Projects provide a wealth of opportunity and learning experiences. Through these projects, students learn so many valuable life-lessons that will carry them through life.

Skills Learned:

- Showmanship
- Responsibility
- Evaluation
- Teamwork
- Anatomy
- Nutrition
- Communication Skills

Project Learning Opportunities

- Learn through workshops
- Learn through tours of breeding operations
- Learn through industry professionals
- Learn through research of breed/species

Optional Opportunities:

- Livestock Judging
- Livestock Quiz Bowl
- Livestock Shows (Major Shows & local shows)

- Livestock Skill-a-thon
- Educational Presentations
- Ag Awareness Days



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WHAT IS....

Photography

4-H PROJECT INFO

Camera time! In the 4-H photography project you will learn to use cameras, lighting, and other photography equipment to get great shots. You'll learn to review and evaluate photos for quality and appearance. You will learn about techniques in editing and developing photographs for display, competition, or personal enjoyment.

Skills Learned:

- Responsibility
- Communication
- Tell a story with your photos
- Take photos using a tripod
- Utilizing different lighting
- Using shutter speeds
- Capturing a moment
- Elements of Design

Project Learning Opportunities

- Learn through workshops
- Learn through project meetings
- Learn through industry professionals
- Learn through YouTube tutorials
- Learn through practice
- Learn through contests

Optional Contest Opportunities

- County, District, and State Photography Contests
- Local County Fairs
- Photography Judging



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WHAT IS....

Foods & Nutrition

4-H PROJECT INFO

If you want to be a star in the kitchen, try the food & nutrition project! You'll learn kitchen and cooking safety, how to prepare nutritious meals and snacks, and meal ideas to reduce your risk of disease. Learning experiences focus on nutrition, food purchasing, food preparation, food safety, and related careers.

Skills Learned:

- Food Safety
- Nutrition
- Food Prep skills
- Recipe creation
- Substitutions
- Budgeting
- Basic cooking skills
- MyPlate
- Teamwork

Project Learning Opportunities

- Learn through workshops
- Learn through project meetings
- Learn through industry professionals
- Learn through practice
- Learn through contests

Optional Contest Opportunities

- Food Show
- Food Challenge
- FCH Quiz Bowl



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Be sure to check out these resources in our Club Manager Google Drive!

REMINDERS & LINKS TO REMEMBER

