

CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION

DISTRICT 8 4-H CLUB MANAGER CONNECTION



New Year, New Resolutions

The start of a new year is a perfect time to guide students in setting resolutions that foster growth and success. Reflecting on the past year is a great first step—encourage them to think about accomplishments, challenges, and lessons learned to build self-awareness.

Help students craft resolutions using the SMART framework: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound. For example, instead of “I want to be a better public speaker,” try “I will practice public speaking by giving one presentation during a 4-H meeting each month.”

Encourage a balance between personal growth and community impact. Resolutions could include volunteering for a service project, mentoring younger members, or organizing a club initiative. Pairing personal goals with service builds leadership and a sense of purpose.

Finally, remind students to revisit their resolutions throughout the year. Check-ins during 4-H meetings can help track progress and celebrate successes. Whether achieving milestones or learning from setbacks, every step counts.

Through setting thoughtful resolutions, students can build essential skills, contribute to their communities, and create a fulfilling year ahead. Happy New Year!

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District 8 4-H
Making the best better



Keeping Members Engaged During Winter & Stock Show Season

Winter months and stock show season in Texas can challenge attendance at 4-H club meetings. However, with intentional planning, you can maintain strong engagement and ensure members continue showing up. Here are tangible solutions to help club managers navigate this busy time.

1. Make Meetings Worth Attending

- **Offer Valuable Content:** Plan meetings with engaging activities like hands-on workshops, project demonstrations, or guest speakers relevant to stock show interests, such as livestock judges or veterinarians.
- **Highlight Opportunities:** Use meetings to share updates on competitions, scholarships, or upcoming stock show deadlines, ensuring members see the value in attending.

2. Be Flexible with Scheduling

- **Avoid Conflicts:** Adjust meeting dates or times to avoid overlapping with major stock shows or winter school activities. A poll can help determine the best time for members and families.
- **Hybrid Options:** Offer a virtual meeting option for members traveling or juggling tight schedules, ensuring everyone stays informed even if they can't attend in person.

3. Foster Community and Fun

- **Celebrate Successes:** Recognize members' achievements at recent stock shows or winter events during meetings. Public acknowledgment builds excitement and camaraderie.
- **Incorporate Fun Themes:** Create seasonal themes or fun challenges like a winter potluck, costume contest, or stock show trivia night to keep meetings enjoyable.

4. Communicate Clearly and Consistently

- **Use Multiple Channels:** Share meeting reminders through email, social media, and text messages, emphasizing the importance of staying connected.
- **Highlight What's New:** Include specific details about why members won't want to miss the meeting, like unique activities or essential updates.

5. Engage Families and Leaders

- **Delegate Roles:** Assign responsibilities to members and parents, such as leading an activity, organizing snacks, or sharing a project update. Involvement boosts commitment.
- **Encourage Peer Connection:** Pair experienced members with newer ones to foster mentorship and make meetings more inclusive and engaging.

By providing value, staying flexible, and creating a fun, welcoming environment, you can keep your members showing up for 4-H meetings—even during the busy winter and stock show season. A little creativity and clear communication go a long way in maintaining strong club engagement year-round!


Let's make this season a success for your 4-H club!



Record Book-Changes to Note

Find other resources on our website!

<https://d84-h.tamu.edu/home/record-books/>



4-H RECORD BOOK FAST FACTS

- 01 What goes into your book?**

You can include the current year and 3 preceding years in your book. You will want to make sure you include as much as you can.
- 02 Project Experiences**


You can include up to 4 projects. Start with the project you have the most experiences in.
- 03 Leadership/Service**

I want to know less about what you did through these roles, and more about what you learned and how you grew as a person through these experiences.
- 04 Outside 4-H**

Besides 4-H, what are you involved in? What other awards have you won? Community service? Leadership? Include it all here
- 05 Story**

This is where you get to be creative! Tell the story of your 4-H journey this year. Include pictures!

You can find more detailed information at these links:
<https://agrillife.org/d84h/home/record-books/>
<https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/>

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Record Book Resources

[HTTPS://TEXAS4-H.TAMU.EDU/RECORDBOOKS/](https://texas4-h.tamu.edu/recordbooks/)

Upcoming Events for Volunteers

Be sure to save the date on these upcoming volunteer trainings!

VOLUNTEER BASIC TRAINING

DISTRICT 8 4-H



CLUB MANAGER TRAINING

February 20, 2025

Beyond the Basics: Taking Youth Engagement to the Next Level

September 25, 2025

Leveling Up Your Club Meetings: Essential Tips & Tricks

OTHER VOLUNTEER TRAININGS

March 20th &
November 13th

Serving as a Contest Judge: Learn the basics & receive a certification (online)

July 26th, 2025

Super Project Training: Foods, Fashion, Speaking, STEM (In-Person) Location TBD



FMI: Email Megan Shaffer @ megan.shaffer@ag.tamu.edu



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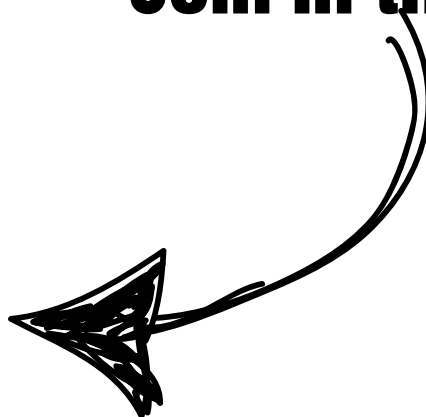
Upcoming Trainings

MINUTE WITH MEGAN

We have a new video series just for you! Check out our short videos each month to gain a fun tip to help you better manage your club!



Join in the fun!



<https://youtu.be/2lRASHQaESU>

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

REMINDERS & LINKS TO REMEMBER

