Program Suggestions for County or Community 4-H Achievement Day; Extension Circular 0-13-2

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PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS FOR COUNTY OR COMMUNITY
4-H ACHIEVEMENT DAY
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PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS

PURPOSE:

1. To reward club members and clubs for good work.
2. To create and hold interest in 4-H Club work.
3. To become acquainted and provide contacts for 4-H members of the county.
4. To promote and unify club spirit, thought and friendliness within the county.
5. To show the appreciation of leaders' work and the cooperation of parents and friends.
6. To stress the fact that a goal has been reached when work is completed.

The Achievement Program might be advertised as 4-H Frolic, 4-H Round-Up, Rally Day, 4-H on Parade, Festival or any other appropriate title.

ATTENDANCE:

4-H members, leaders, parents, friends! Invite interested adults. Have each club member take it upon himself to phone, write or see personally at least five friends or relatives. Have reporters write to their local newspaper. Written invitations to editors, doctors, teachers, ministers, business men and civic organizations by club members, leaders or extension agents are desirable. It is important to get your public "club-conscious."

Bestow annually an honorary 4-H Membership upon some person who has shown outstanding interest in club work for the year.

The Extension Agent should send notices to leaders at least three weeks prior to the event. The county committee would have been planning this event for months. This will give ample time to notify members of clubs and folks within the community.

TIME:
Afternoon or Evening.

PLACE:
Large Community Hall
Appropriate outdoor meeting.

EXHIBITS:

Keep exhibits of each club together arranged by projects. Have ample table space. Have posters, if possible, of uniform size above exhibits indicating Club's name.

Arrange for taking pictures of the exhibit for annual report and for a newspaper story. Sometimes pictures can be taken ahead of time for the papers to advertise the coming event.
The following suggestions might seem highly detailed, but we must remember that "perfection is no trifle, but trifles make perfection." Certain groups can be appointed to assume the following responsibilities:

1. **Hospitality Committee** -- Greeting people at door.

2. **Ushers** -- Helping folks find seats. This will eliminate audience seeking the "back row."

3. **Exhibit Committee** -- Put up exhibit. Explain to visitors the displays and projects to be taken next year.

4. **Decoration Committee** -- Decorating hall with flags and club colors.

5. **Program Committee** -- Seeing that there is unity among leaders in regard to plans and timing of numbers. See that everything goes off smoothly and with a snap. There must be no lagging.

6. **Recreation Committee** -- Taking charge of community singing before program starts. Insert a few stunts where audience can stand up in between numbers for a minute or two if the program is long. Have a number of "fun-fillers" ready as well as extra songs to use between acts of plays or while the next number is being prepared.

7. **Refreshment Committee** -- Seeing that visitors are served first. Be sure that refreshments correlate with the "Health" part of Club Work.

8. **Clean-up Committee** -- Attending to orderliness of the place after all have gone. A good trait of character is shown when groups leave a place in as good or better condition than they found it.

9. **Transportation Committee** -- Seeing that those are taken care of who have difficulty in getting to or home from the Program.

It is best NOT to have too long a program as people get restless. Many speakers can take part but let their talks be brief. (Give them an exact time limit--an alarm clock or cow bell might be used by the time-keeper). Make your program one of quality and dignity, yet include plenty of pep and humor, for --

"A little nonsense now and then
Is cherished by the best of men."
Your first consideration in arranging your program should be to

**PLAN YOUR WORK! then WORK YOUR PLAN!**

(PLAN A SIMPLE PROGRAM with a sincere ring of true and honest achievement.

(PLAN A SHORT PROGRAM that does not tire the audience or those taking part.

**IT IS WISE TO:**

(PLAN A "MESSAGE" PROGRAM showing actual 4-H Club work, rather than a lot of popular amusement.

(PLAN A PROGRAM so that every member feels he has done his best in its organization.

(PLAN A PROGRAM in which the responsibility is placed largely in the hands of the young people.
An older club member with rich club experiences should act as "Master of Ceremonies." Be careful in selection.

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. America...........................................Everybody
3. 4-H Pledge..........................................Members
4. 4-H Songs..........................................Members
5. Welcome Speech.................................Member County Committee
6. Response...........................................Pres. of some 4-H Club
7. Introduction of Special Guests
8. Demonstration (Individual or Team).....Members
9. Reports of Local Clubs.......................Sec'y, Pres. or leader
10. Friendship Dance
    Pyramid Building or
    4-H Progress Drill.................................Members
11. Bestowing Honorary Membership
12. Value of 4-H Clubs to Community.......Parent or Interested Adult
13. Entertainment Numbers
    (Short play, skit, stunts).....................Members
14. Introduction of Winners at
    County or State Fairs
15. Honoring of Club Leaders..................Extension Agent
16. Presentation of Certificates
    and Seals......................................Extension Agent
17. Plans for Next Year.........................Chairman of County 4-H
    Club Committee

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Do not permit two similar numbers to come in succession or your program will become too long or drag.
As something "tangible" to show the per cent of achievement in your club, a chart or poster can be made by a member as follows:

**OUR MOTTO:**

START UP! KEEP UP! FINISH UP!

A few words of explanation of these to the audience may make them more easily understood.
CEREMONIAL

For a serious and simple ceremony that needs no rehearsing one of the following two can be used. They can be worked in on a program in which officers of clubs or winners are being honored. They are serviceable if it is desired that everyone participate, visitors as well as members. If an honorary membership is bestowed upon some prominent citizen of the community, these ceremonies will be found very effective. They are excellent for use in the open for camps, picnics or outdoor programs. The outlines are made with chalk, if indoors. Lime can be sprinkled on the grass to form guide-lines, if held outdoors. It will not harm the grass.

THE HEART-SHAPED CEREMONY

If there are many members taking part they can march in two's, if just a few, then in single file. Those to be honored can take their places anywhere in the line.

Music plays "My Nebraska" while members sing and march, taking their places side by side with their toes on the line finally facing inward when the heart is complete.

Main Speaker

(Soft music played throughout ceremony. Dreaming song preferred)

Begin marching here.

Four cardboard or beaver-board petals are made to represent the 4-H's and these are placed in their respective places before ceremony begins. They are painted green with the words or just the H's printed with chalk on each petal.

When all have marched after starting at the point in two lines and are in their places in single or double file (according to size of crowd), the main
Speaker explains the purpose of the ceremony and says that he will call on a number of persons who have made outstanding records in club work the past year.

He calls out the name of the first person and instructs him to take the "Head" petal and place it in the center of the heart and to stand at the wide part of the petal. As member obeys the command and is standing in place, the speaker says:

"Use your HEAD on lessons learned. 
Work out a better plan,
You'll make your best even better.
If you just think you can."

Speaker then tells the value of the "Heart" in club work and calls out name of second member to represent the "Heart" petal. Person called on steps forward and does exactly as the first person did on the "Head" petal by bringing it into the center and standing in front; speaker recites the following:

"The HEART petal throbs with sympathy and joy
And is a reminder to you,
To put your HEART, good, kind and true
In every deed you do."

Then the "Hands" are discussed in relation to 4-H projects and third name is called out. This member does exactly what the other two did before him and as he stands there (making the three leaves so far) speaker reads:

"Our HANDS, club folks, were made for work,
And to lend a helping hand, you know,
So let us labor with good spirit, speed and skill
As through the world we go."

Last is the "Health" petal, so the speaker mentions a few things about the value of good health and its relation to club work. As fourth petal is placed in center forming the perfect clover-leaf, the speaker reads:

"Our goal is HEALTH, the quest for man and maid,
The great adventure rare,
For HEALTH holds life and laughter
And strength, and happiness to spare."

(As the four petals are placed in center, the following is the result:

(See next Page)

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(Should five or six persons be honored in the event, you can add the stem. The slogan and motto can be used as members take their places forming the stem.)

After all members who have been honored are in their places in the center of the heart, the 4-H Club Pledge is repeated by everyone. Then all join in singing "America, the Beautiful."

To end the ceremony, those who are on the outside join hands in an arch formation. The prize-winners start at the head of the heart and march under the archway (leaving the clover-leaf on the ground.) As they march under, the entire crowd sings "There is no Place Like Nebraska." Starting with the couple forming the arch at the head, they follow the winners under the arches until the last couple is left. All march away, continuing the singing until the last person is out of sight.

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The heart-shaped ceremony just described is used in case something different is desired. However, the circle formation is good, but it has been used for so many different things that it does not create the effect that another formation would.

If something more elaborate is desired, the 4-H Progress Drill or one of the 4-H Dances by the girls could be inserted just before the announcements of the winners.

(This ceremony was used for camp closing last year and proved very impressive.)
MARCHING TUNE: THE PLOWING SONG
(For either boys or girls)

Twelve persons is the minimum number that should be used in this drill. If possible, have them carry 4-H flags or American flags. (It is not hard to make the 4-H flag at home; just a white background of cheese-cloth and a green cloverleaf sewed in the middle) Every formation in this march carries an interpretation of the 4-H song and ideals. It would take too much space to write it out here, but perhaps at a future date you may learn more about it.

1 xx 7 Twelve members in double file come down center aisle
2 xx 8 until they get to the front. Each has a number, 1
3 xx 9 to 12, and they keep the same numbers throughout.
4 xx 10 Nos. 1 to 6 have most of their work on the left-hand
5 xx 11 side of the stage, while 7 to 12 work on the right.
6 xx 12 When they reach the center front of the stage, the first couple goes to the right and the second to the left, others also alternating.
They go to back center and fall into a double line again in the regular manner as they came on the stage.

Come down to front of stage same as before but fall off into single line.
Those on the left side, 1 to 6, go to left side of stage, and those on right, 7 to 12, go to right. The formation now looks as follows: (Illustration I)

The line on the left goes to the corner and cuts it square and goes half-way and falls into circle (1 leading and following 12). The line on the right goes to corner, also, cuts it squarely and goes about three-fourths of the way up and starts to form a circle. (Illustration II).
Go around the circle twice until No. 1 is opposite 7. 1 is at center back, while 7 is center front. The first six numbers march into left back of stage and form a circle, while 7 to 12 march to front right and form their circle. They march twice around. (Illustration III)

Out of the two smaller circles, three persons break away, 1, 2, 3 on the left and form their tiny circle in front left, leaving 4, 5, 6 in their own circle where they were. On the right, 7, 8, 9 break away into their own tiny circle in the rear right, thus leaving 10, 11, 12 where they were. There are four real small circles moving. March around these smallest circles twice. (Illustration IV)

March back into the two larger circles where you were before and go around once.

From the two circles we make the wheel. Left circle, 1 to 6 march forward to center of stage half-way and then to left. Those in right circle, 7 to 12 march toward them and then to right, as follows:

(The wheel is made up of four spokes, each spoke representing one H. The leader can march in with or without a large American flag to represent the hub)

The wheel goes around the entire way and stops. Come back to original position. (When pledge is given, use notions)

Spoke that has 1, 2, 3 says: (music stops)
I PLEDGE MY HEAD TO CLEARER THINKING
Move one quarter

" " " 4, 5, 6 says:
MY HEART TO GREATER LOYALTY
(Move second quarter)

" " " 7, 8, 9 says:
MY HANDS TO LARGER SERVICE
(Move third quarter)
Spoke that has 10, 11, 12 says:
AND MY HEALTH TO BETTER LIVING

All together on the ending:
FOR MY CLUB, MY COMMUNITY AND MY COUNTRY.

After the pledge, they right-about-face and march around once making the complete wheel.

From the wheel formation 1 and 7 start their groups and go to back of stage and face in original couples when they meet at center back of stage.

(The hub can march to center back of stage following No. 12 and waits until the bridge is made.)

They raise their flags to make a bridge, the second couple goes under the first couple's flags and stand next in line. The others follow under the bridge until all six couples are in place. The hub marches through first, then the first couple breaks the bridge by walking beneath and off the stage, the second follows doing the same until all couples have gone under and then exit.

Costumes add much color to a drill. If possible have the regulation 4-H green dress or all the girls can dress in white with green belts, collars or hats.
Pyramid building calls for the characteristics necessary in our club work such as balance, steadiness, courage and team work. It becomes picture-making when each pose harmonizes with the whole, otherwise the picture is spoiled. Pyramid building proves very entertaining to an audience as it provides something different. Be sure to have a strong, well-built person for the foundation, and a light but steady person for the top-mounter.

It is very important that the pose is held an appreciable length of time before it is broken up. A pyramid may be ruined simply by having it disbanded too soon.

The mounts pictured here are easy to work out. From these suggestions work on a few more of your own as space here for further examples and details is limited.

---

1. Count of ONE:

4 beats: Count of ONE: 

4 " " TWO: 

8 " " THREE:

4 " " FOUR:

(dismount as mounted)

In this picture, a 4-H flag can be displayed by top mouter.

II (Fan Pyramid)

3 or 12 beats:

All mount at count of ONE:

Feet should be close together and grasp each other by wrists.

III

8 or 12 beats:

If there are extra persons, put them in between figures or on side with arms outstretched.

Other features that can be brought into a number of this kind are: Tumbling, Cartwheeling, Hand Springs, Leap Frog, Animal Walks, and Wheelbarrows. This part of your number can be called, "Topsy Turvies"—"Clever Captivating Clowns," or "Roly Poly Tumblers."

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An imitation circus always goes off well, especially if those taking part are peppy and have originality. Have a good ringmaster; he adds color as he snaps his whip and directs the performers into the ring to do their stunts.

The group first puts on a parade. They come upon the stage while singing a song and then stand in a semi-circle until the ringmaster calls on each one to put on his act. He introduces each performer with much "gusto" and bally-hoo, describing the performer's accomplishments and superiority over all others in the world. Here he must make exaggerated and mirth-provoking statements in order to "sell" his circus. He must keep the audience attentive and in gay mood. After all have performed they again sing together at the sound of the whistle and march off. Any costumes members may have at home can be made over without much trouble to suit the characters desired. If anybody in the group plays a horn or trumpet they could be combined with an improvised drum to form a brass band.

TUMBLERS: Most groups have a few members who could perform in this line.

CLOWNS: Clown suits are not difficult to prepare. They should be ridiculous in dress as well as in actions. They can "take off" on actions of serious performers.

JUGGLERS: Throw a few hard-boiled eggs into air. Tie tin cups and plates to a tray and tray to end of a stick. Balance stick on head, hand, nose or chin and let fall over somebody's head. This will cause excitement but nothing really falls on their heads.

TRAINED ANIMALS: Giraffe can be made with two persons: the taller one stands erect in front holding a stick with some sort of head fastened to top. The shorter one stands in the rear. A light-colored gunny-sack with spots made of shoe-blackening can be thrown over the two. A blanket can be used.

TIGHT ROPE WALKER: Girl or boy carries parasol; places rope on ground and balances himself; at first two persons can hold rope high in the air and then let it down when it is to be walked upon. Makes motions of real tight-rope walker.
CIRCUS (continued)

HERCULES: The strong man should show his muscles. (A discarded light-colored stocking stuffed with paper is placed over the muscles of arms.) Lifts various articles as if they weighed a ton.

WAZZI-GUGOOLA: The snake-charmer, direct from the wilds of Africa. She eats them alive. Rubber hose answers well for snakes.

ZAZA: The bearded woman. Eats shredded wheat and never uses Burma Shave.

TINY: The fat lady. Use pillows for stuffing. Tells how many gallons of cream and loaves of bread, etc., she consumes each day.

SIAMESE TWINS: Two persons link arms back to back. Sheet draped around them.

TARZAH: Fur piece draped over body. Bathing suit is good foundation. Acts his part by giving some wild yells and prancing vociferously back and forth.

COWBOYS AND INDIANS: These can be boys and girls who are more retiring in manner and do not care to put on individual acts.

Others may be added. Be sure to have one or two animals. An elephant would be exceptionally fine if some ingenious person would make the outfit. Have a few persons walk through audience selling peanuts, popcorn, etc. to create circus atmosphere.

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(This stunt was put on in summer camps in 1934 by the leaders for the members and it created much laughter and merriment. I still wonder who had the more fun, those taking part or the audience.)
Much action and conversation should take place during the following scenes. There must be careful planning in advance if a minimum amount of time is to be taken for changes between numbers. Time thus consumed must be much less than that required for each presentation. To offset the stress of undue waiting between scenes, it would be wise to plan for some individual readings, poems, jokes, fun-fillers, etc. Select something seasonal so that it will harmonize with the program.

If you have other song preferences, use them. Music must be soft during entire show. It must not conflict with or drown out voices. Occasional cessation from playing or strong emphasis in certain places is good for contrast and distinction in certain scenes.

Curtains part to show:

JANUARY

On left an old man bending on a cane with the figures 1935 on a strip of paper across his chest. On right a young child laughing gayly with figures 1936 on paper across chest. Music: Jingle Bells. White background. Clothing must have coloring in order to stand out.

FEBRUARY

A young boy dressed in colonial costume standing beside a tree which has been chopped down. He has a red hatchet in his right hand. An elderly man in costume is standing in front of him with a reproachful look on his face. If this seems difficult to portray, have a girl come out with some fancy costume with hearts pinned all over her. She then asks, "Won't you be my Valentine?" Music: "Let Me Call You Sweetheart."

MARCH

Group holding on to their hats and swaying slightly as though a strong wind is blowing against them. They are laughing and seem to enjoy it. They wear hiking togs and lunch packs on their backs. An electric fan will give the effect of the wind behind the scenes. If this is not practical, St. Patrick's Day is easily substituted. Music: "Sweet and Low" -- "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" -- "Wearing of the Green."

APRIL

Group comes out and says "April showers bring May flowers." They wear raincoats and umbrellas and sing: "Oh, It ain't Gonna Rain No More," or "I'm Singin' in the Rain."
MAY

An elderly couple are placing flowers on a mound with American flag to represent Memorial Day; green background. Or Mother's Day can be represented by having a girl with white cap sit in a rocker knitting. A poem on "Mother" can be read or a solo sung: "Little Mother O' Mine."

JUNE

A bride and groom being showered by a group with rice and old shoes. Two girls or two boys can take the parts. Music: "Wedding March" or "I Love You Truly." Very cheerful atmosphere.

JULY

A table surrounded by six colonial gentlemen. Flag decorations. They are solemnly signing a paper as it goes around the table. In the distance (behind stage) a bell is heard. This represents the Declaration of Independence. Music: "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

AUGUST

The picnickers have a tablecloth spread on the floor with food and drinks. They are very gay and tell a few jokes. Others are seen in the background sitting underneath umbrellas and fanning themselves. Music: "In the Good Old Summer Time."

SEPTEMBER

A group enters with books under their arms and sing, "School Days." Have two signs made, the first "SCHOOL DAYS" and the other "BORED OF EDUCATION." Someone introduces the song by saying, "We're going to sing----------(points to first sign)." After song is finished he says: "Let me introduce you to the----------(points to second sign)." Two or three members are dressed as dignitaries and bow.

OCTOBER

Scene of Harvest with pumpkins, corn stalks, etc. Witch or black cat crosses the stage. Pumpkin faces can be cut out and candles placed inside. Howling and howling behind stage. Large moon in background. Music: "Comin' Through the Rye."

NOVEMBER

Group are cheering, waving flags, using noisemakers and shouting: "THE ARMISTICE HAS BEEN SIGNED." Or Thanksgiving Day can be portrayed by showing several members going to church to express thanks. Pilgrim costumes are good. Music: If the first is used, "Keep the Home Fires Burning"; if the second, "A Hymn of Thanks."

DECEMBER

White background. Group dressed for cold weather, (preferably capes) and carrying lanterns to represent carolers. They sing "Silent Night, Holy Night." Stage dark, only light from lanterns showing.

Characters: 
- Employment Manager
- Flapper
- Business Girl
- Widow
- Artist
- French Girl
- Nurse
- H-H Girl

Mr. Snodgrass sits behind a desk and the following characters appear before him to secure a job as an actress:

1. The business girl appears. (Carries a shorthand notebook, wearing glasses and is neat looking.) Politely, she asks to be interviewed. The manager looks her over, measures her ears and says, "No, I'm afraid I can't hire you because your ears are too large." Dismisses her.

2. The artist steps in. (Wears a tam and carries a paint-pot and brushes.) With a few words she applies for the job and after looking her over the boss takes a yard-stick and measures her feet. In a moment he says: "No I can't hire you because your feet are too large."

3. The nurse comes in. (Wears white). She runs up to the boss and says, "Oh my! You look ill! You need my care!" (She takes his hand and begins to take his pulse). He snatches his hand away and reaches for his yard stick and measures her head. Then says: "Sorry, Miss, but I cannot hire you because your head is too thick."

4. The flapper waltzes in. (Chews gum and takes out lipstick and applies it). The boss stops a minute and stares at her and cuts in by asking: "What are you here for?" After she carelessly tells him, thinking she is sure of the job, he begins to measure her nose and chin. Then he says: "Too bad, but both your chin and nose turn up too much." Poutingly she walks out.

5. The widow slowly enters. (Wears black hat with veil over the back of her hat). She smiles wistfully at him, expecting sympathy to land her the job. After a little conversation and measurements he says: "So very, very sorry, Mrs. Crepe Hanger, but I'll have to turn you down because you have no personality."

6. The French girl struts in coquettishly. (Wears flashy jewelry, has painted face and keeps her hands on hips). "Ello, Bee'g Boy." The boss stands up and is deeply interested, and says, "Ahem, ahem" several times. Then takes yard stick and measures her wrists, forehead and waistline. After pondering he says: "I'm just terribly sorry, little French girl, but your waist measurement is just one-half inch more than we desire."

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7. The 4-H girl walks in gracefully and confidently. Wears sport dress and smiles. The boss acts surprised to see such a fine specimen and tells her so. After asking her many questions he takes measurements of her head and says, "HEAD.....PERFECT!" Next measures her hands and shouts, "HANDS.....PERFECT!" After which he views her from a distance and utters with joy, "Your HEALTH is PERFECT--I can see that you know how to take care of yourself. "And from the kindly expression in your eyes I know that your HEART is PERFECT!" (Pause)......... YOU'RE HIRED! Sign this contract, please Miss 4-H and we'll be able to use you in all our ideal American Girl pictures."

FLOWERS AND THEIR MEANINGS

For a serious, yet entertaining number that is instructional, a member can give a short talk on the language of the flowers. This would be very appropriate for a Garden Club member. If it is possible, have real or imitation flowers and as each flower is mentioned, show it to your audience.

apple blossom........admirations
columbine...........folly
geranium.............deceit
dandelion...........coquetry
goldenrod...........encouragement
hyacinth............sorrow
narcissus...........vanity
oak leaf.............power
violet............modesty
daisy..............innocence
fern..................forsaken
laurel..............conquest
lily................purity
pentstemon........thoughts
ivy................friendship
tulip................boldness
rose................love

Each month of the year is also represented by a flower:

January..............snow drop or carnation
February.............primrose
March................violet
April...............daisy
May..................hawthorne
June.................honesuckle
July................water lily
August.............poppy
September..........morning glory
October...........hops
November...........chrysanthemum
December...........holly
"I'd rather be a little dog
And be a little leaner,
Than be a chubby little pig
And end up in a wiener."

Prepared by
Angeline Tauchen