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Will You be a 4-H Club Leader?: Extension Circular 0-48-2

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Will You Be A
4-H Club Leader?

EXTENSION SERVICE
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COOPERATING
W. V. LAMBERT, DIRECTOR
If your little girl and her friends came running up to ask: "Mother, we want to be in 4-H, will you be our leader?"- what would you say?

If your young son and his buddies suddenly said, "Dad, we're goin' to be in 4-H like the rest of the fellows, will you be leader?"- how would you side-step that one?

Or maybe it starts the other way around. You as a parent think your youngster should try 4-H. The older boys and girls in the neighborhood like it and you have seen some 4-H exhibits at a local show or fair. Everybody says it is good for children so you begin to ask about it. You find out that 4-H activities all center around the club and leaders.
Of course not all leaders are parents of members. Good leaders also come from the older club boys and girls with five to ten years of experience. Others are adults with a keen interest in children and still others are grandparents. Age in years is not very important. If the leader is interested and likes youngsters and they like the leader, the club's success can almost be assured.

"Oh, my, no," you might say, - "I couldn't be a leader. I don't know much about what you want to do."

It is not necessary that you be an expert. If you enjoy cooking, sewing, or being a homemaker, and you have the member's interest at heart, you are qualified. If you are willing to study the project circulars with the girls, you can help them a lot. The same applies to the projects for boys and their leaders.

"Why, I wouldn't know what to do at a club meeting," might be your first reply. "I understand there are records to keep and reports to make. No, you'd better find someone else to lead. I might help you with your project." Or you might think you do not have time or could not maintain interest in the club.

There really is nothing too hard about the meeting, records or reports. It would be fun to try, and the youngsters need someone to help them along at that age.

It does take time; but time spent developing boys and girls to become capable citizens and our future key people is worth your effort.
It is fun. One experienced leader said, "It's just like taking the grandchildren to the circus. It gives me an excuse to have a lot of fun too."

Most boys and girls are in 4-H because they have a lot of fun in addition to their project work. All the club activities are planned with that in mind. You can enjoy it, and you will.
And now, as a prospective leader, you would probably like to know how to organize a 4-H Club.

Talk with the boys and girls and their parents about 4-H club work. Obtain information from your County Extension Agent or from other persons who know about club work. Then, meet with the group, including the parents if possible, and decide upon a project. When you talk to your County Extension Agent, you can find out about the Agricultural and Home Economics projects and the type of club to organize—the standard club or the community club. A yearbook is available for each club member. Members can write the club program, activities and names of demonstrators for each meeting in their yearbooks. Following is a list of the 4-H club projects available in Nebraska. Detailed information about each may be obtained from your Agent.

4-H PROJECTS AVAILABLE

Agricultural Clubs

Livestock

Beef
Dairy
Swine
Sheep
Rabbits
Riding Horse

Agronomy

Pure Seed
Corn
Small Grain
Soil Conservation
Navy Beans
Sugar Beets
Weeds

Engineering

Tractor
Rope
Electricity
Woodworking
Horticulture
Garden
Potato
Yard Beautification

Poultry
Chick Rearing
Broiler Production
Farm Flock
Breeding Flock
Turkeys

Bird

Entomology

Forestry

Fix-It

HOME ECONOMICS CLUBS

Clothing

Beginners Unit
Let's Sew
Learning To Sew

Middle Unit
Lounging and Sleeping
Work and Play
School Clothes

Advanced Unit
Dress Up Dresses
Simple, Tailored Clothes
Making New Clothes From Old
After the project is selected the group, meeting together, elects officers and makes final arrangements for the local leaders. This is when you can be of help by volunteering your services. There are usually two leaders for a standard club and more for a community club.

Then this new 4-H club proceeds to choose an appropriate name and sends an application blank to the County Extension Agent.

This application is a request for supplies which are furnished at no cost to the leaders or club members.

A second meeting should be scheduled about two weeks later. At this meeting club members are permanently enrolled, supplies are distributed and the year's meetings are planned. This can be done by the club or a special planning committee appointed to work with the leaders. The use of a yearbook helps members, leaders and parents to know what is expected of each.
Each meeting should be divided into three parts--
(1) a short snappy business meeting conducted by
the members themselves; (2) subject matter pre-
sented to the club by demonstration, judging and/or
discussion with the assistance of the leaders; and
(3) recreation in the form of games, singing,
movies, sports or some type of talent.

Usually six or more meetings are held in the
members' homes, each taking his or her turn. The
trend in Nebraska is for year-round 4-H club
work so more than six meetings are usually held.

YOUR PART AS A LEADER

As a 4-H Club leader, you will be the "spark
plug" of the entire 4-H program. You will attend
the regular club meetings and serve as an adviser
to the club members. You will get help and in-
formation by attending special 4-H events.

As leader, you will guide the members in every
way possible, assist with the program for the year,
plan before each meeting, sit in on committee
meetings and help with the planning of demon-
strations.

The County Extension Agents will cooperate and
help you solve your problems, and answer your
questions.

You will receive helpful information from County
and District meetings too. Here information on club
management, project work, judging and demon-
strations is presented.

When there is more than one leader, usually each
of you will assume definite duties. It is well to make
this division of responsibilities at the beginning of
the project.
YOUR PAY AS 4-H LEADER

You will be repaid in many ways. Think of the personal satisfaction from watching young awkward or bashful boys and girls develop into resourceful and well trained young men and women. As a leader, you will have contributed to your members something that you alone dare value, for it is beyond monetary measure.

Think of the enjoyment received from watching your club members demonstrate, judge and make improvement each year in their project work. The exhibits they make at fairs and shows improve yearly too. Yes, you can definitely play an important role in helping them live up to the 4-H motto "To Make The Best Better."

Animal Husbandry Session at 4-H Leaders' Conference
There are 4-H leader recognition meetings. Pins are presented to leaders who have led for a certain number of years.

A highlight for you would be when you are awarded a scholarship to attend the State-Wide 4-H Leader Conference at Lincoln.

**WILL YOU BE A 4-H CLUB LEADER?**

This booklet briefly describes the necessity and importance of leadership of 4-H clubs. It is too bad that often clubs are not organized because there is no leader. Will you do something about this situation and volunteer your leadership?