

Welcome to Quality and Vibrant 4-H Clubs

It's all about Fun, Friends, Voice and Choice!

We often wonder what keeps youth coming to club meetings. What about:

- They are having fun with their friends and making new friends
- They are learning about new things that interests them
- They have a voice in club activities
- They get to make decisions as a group
- They give back to the community through service to others.

What are the Characteristics of a Quality and Vibrant 4-H Club?

- Promotes member development, not competition
- Changes how youth do things, not what they do (firm yet flexible)
- Works hard and plays hard
- Empowers young people
- Provides communication with and listening to young people
- Balances firmness with flexibility
- Has people who affirm and support one another
- Uses a mentoring system to help new members
- Values and practices service to other
- Takes time for training
- Recognizes that each person brings skills and talents to the group to help achieve the larger goal of the group (Astroth, K. 1997)

What are the Best Practices of a Quality and Vibrant 4-H Club?

- Members develop and follow a yearly club program plan
- Meets are set for a consistent date and time
- Arranges activities for families to be involved in and spend more time together
- Communicates consistently and clearly
- Uses greeters at the door to welcome everyone - especially those who might get their early
- Introduces visitors during the meeting - make them feel welcome

- Contacts those members who did not attend the meeting
- Uses club e-mails and newsletters or other forms of communications to let everyone know what is happening
- Leaders meet with officers ahead of time to develop an agenda for the meeting
- Volunteer leaders operate as coaches, and guides members on the side

Quality and Vibrant 4-H Club Meetings Have Three Parts.

Business Meetings	One-fourth of meeting time
Educational Program	One-half of meeting time
Recreation Time	One-fourth of meeting time

Business Meetings promote Belonging, Mastery, and Independence. Learning business procedures are an important skill. When the meetings run smoothly and efficiently, there is more time for the club to grow through learning and playing together. The goal should be a shorter, well-run meeting. An agenda should include the following:

- Call to order
- Flag Pledges
- Roll call
- Reading of the minutes from the previous meeting
- Treasurer's report
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

The **Educational Program** promotes Belonging, Mastery, Independence, and Generosity. Include learning in every club meeting. Some clubs will promote an activity from different 4-H project areas at each meeting. Some ideas are:

- Demonstrations related to the youth's projects - good practice for County Events
- Outside speaker
- Field Trips
- Working on projects, exhibits, or project books