

Planning the Annual 4-H Club Program

The program should be based on the needs and interests of the youth. They will have many ideas of things to do. Your job will be to guide them in making their plans. Group discussion with the 4-H'ers' ideas being given to a planning committee is one way of getting all members involved in the planning process.

Refer to Fact Sheet 4HCF1 – “4-H Club Program Planning,” for additional help.

Design Your Own Clover

Use CES-689, “Design Your Own Clover,” for planning the annual program. Under the heading of the four petals of the clover, let 4-H'ers write things they would like to do for fun. Collect the ideas from each member's clover. Summarize by writing the ideas on a chalk board or newsprint pad under the headings.

- Before you do anything else, help the group make these decisions:
- How many meetings (and when) to plan for “learning.”
- How many community service projects to conduct (and when).
- How many others to plan for.

Let the group select items to go in the program plan. Select months, dates and times that plans should be carried out. Record these on CES-626, “4-H Club Annual Calendar.” List person responsible for program or activity. List dates of special county, district and state events.

Checklist for a Good Club Program Plan

- Did the members of the group make the plan?
- Is each part planned with a specific purpose in mind?
- Does the plan have variety?
- Have parents been included?
- Does the plan show when the program will be?
- Do all members have a copy?
- Does the county Extension office have a copy?
- Is there a plan for evaluation?

Seasonal Program Ideas - Time of Year and Ideas

Spring – *March, April and May* – Arbor Day, Mother's Day, Easter Egg Hunt, Spring Clean Up, Crafts Fair, Museum Visit, St. Patrick's, Gardening, Nature Hike, April Fool's, Exchange Meeting with Another Club, Sports Event Day, 4-H Leaders Banquet

Summer – *June, July, August* – Father's Day, 4th of July, Hikes, State/Local Park Trips, Car Wash, Watermelon Feed, Bike Rides, Scavenger Hunts, Tours

Fall – *September, October, November* – Hay Ride, Weiner Roast, Halloween Party, Food and Clothing for the Needy, Courtroom Visitation, Club Awards Programs, Store Window, Fairs

Winter – *December, January, February* – Feed Birds, Valentine's Party, Progressive Dinner, Christmas caroling, Christmas gifts/cards for needy, Crafts, Hospital and Nursing Home visits