



January 20, 2017



Leader Tips



In the Know



4-H Stories



Club Meeting Ideas

Thrive

What is Positive youth Development, and why is 4-H different than other programs?



Positive youth development occurs from an intentional process that promotes positive outcomes for young people by providing **opportunities, relationships** and the **support** to fully participate.

~U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

The basic purpose of the 4-H program is to focus on the personal growth of youth. The organization provides a number of opportunities in areas such as communications, leadership, career development, livestock, home improvement, and computer technology. 4-H members learn from others, learn new life skills, and set and achieve goals. Each educational experience emphasizes self esteem, communication, and decision making (Gerdes and Clover 2001).

In many of my experiences I have learned that by not only teaching, but also allowing youth the opportunity to put what they have learned in the classroom to practice, youth are able to better understand, and remember what they have learned. It also allows them to explore things they are curious about, and to try new things. Likewise by fulfilling leadership positions in their club, they are able to develop leadership skills and help push each other to become the best people they can be.

By creating opportunities for youth to learn and master skills, experiential education meets fundamental needs in youth development. Coupled with the sense of belonging that is created within the club aspect, youth are able to hone in on their leadership skills themselves.

In the issues to come, this section will cover research on youth development and how we can best serve our youth. If there is a topic you would like to see, please let me know!

In the Know



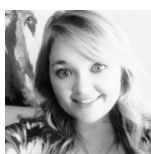
Leaders, please let me know if club meeting times or dates have changed. Or if you are planning a specific project meeting. The more you communicate with me, the better I can communicate with our members and families.

The Big Event is just around the corner! If you have any questions please call!

I would LOVE for you all to join me on January 28th for leader training. I have some great activates planned!

Please remind your members about the upcoming opportunities to complete quality assurance classes. For dates and times [click here](#). Youth may also take a test that covers the appropriate material based on age and the species they show. I will also be hosting some nutrition workshops. Youth may attend a nutrition workshop instead of YQA.

Spark



Why did I choose 4-H?

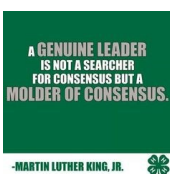
Growing up, I had the opportunity to participate in a vast array of experiences, many of which were in 4-H. Each experience led me to believe I wanted to be something different. I have come to realize, that it doesn't matter what I do as long as I serve others. I want to impact youth, and their future. I desire to be a role model to the youth in our community. I desire to pay forward all the love and character that was poured into me. I need to invest in the future.

The best way to invest in the future is to invest in people. Whether it be my leaders, my colleagues, or youth, I need to invest. Character and success are learned. I hope to be able to demonstrate the character and success, which I learned from my role models, to the young eyes that will be watching me as I continue to pursue my career goals. Helping tomorrow's future learn to be leaders of character, responsible citizens, and trustworthy young adults will be beneficial, not only to me, but to our community, country and possibly the world.

4-H was a huge part of my life. I could not wait to become a member myself! I was always eager to be a club officer, and eventually, I became a junior leader, and a member of the Wyoming State Leadership team. I didn't realize until I was in college how much 4-H had impacted me on a deeper level. I had become a strong young woman who could accomplish far more than I would have ever thought.

I chose to pursue a career in youth development, because I hope to invest in youth, the way my 4-H Educator invested in me. I hope to help make a difference in someone's life. I hope to help youth develop a passion for learning, and for AG. Albert Einstein said "once you stop learning you start dying." I hope to continually learn how to better serve others, and never stop living.

Inspiration



February meetings are a great time to do some service projects, set club goals, and get a jump start on portfolios.

Here is a link to the National 4-H blog: [http://4-h.org/about/blog/!](http://4-h.org/about/blog/)

The following link is to a short video that may inspire your club to be a part of something great. Community service is vital part of 4-H and successful communities.

Mati's 4-H Inspiration — Story of Mati and how she raised the money through 4-H to donate to a family.



"4-H encourages kids to explore and find their passion. I think that's important because that - having passion - is what creates a great leader."

-Jennifer Nettles

