

Tips and Tools for Planning Your Club Year



Planning is one of those things that many of us just never seem to get around to. The new 4-H year is always a busy time: reenrollment information is due in your county MSU Extension office, county recognition events are coming up and new members are joining your group.

In the midst of all this, taking time to plan the activities for the entire year may seem silly, but it can pay big dividends in the long run. Involving members in planning and designing club activities and events helps to build young people's leadership skills and increases their commitment to carrying out the plans. 4-H clubs and

groups are excellent places for young people to build leadership skills. Planning, implementing and evaluating group activities throughout the year are great ways for youth to practice their leadership skills.

Annual Club Calendar

Creating an annual calendar is a good communication tool for 4-H clubs and groups. It can help everyone keep on track and involved in the group's activities. For each month of the year, identify the educational, recreational and community service activities your group will be involved in. The list that follows is just an example!

September

- New member recruitment and club reenrollment. Begin to select projects for the year.
- Start to think about which Kettunen Center workshops our club will participate in.
- Hold roadside clean-up day.
- Sponsor 4-H get-acquainted night.

October

- Do a window display in a downtown store for National 4-H Week.
- Organize a senior citizen Halloween party.
- Hold a club officer training event.

November

- Everyone attends CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training.
- Write cards and letters for holiday pen pals project.
- Attend food safety workshop.

December

- Hold club holiday party.
- Go caroling at community hospital.
- Work on holiday crafts.

January

- Attend stress management workshop.
- Collect pop cans and bottles for Habitat for Humanity.
- Large animal project identification information due.

February

- Organize "Be My Valentine" senior citizen dance.
- Begin exercise and fitness program.
- Attend countywide lock-in.
- Begin planning for countywide dog walk as a fund-raiser for local humane society.

March

- Attend kite-making workshop.
- Celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday by volunteering to help with the "Read Across America" program at local bookstore.
- Send in club members' 4-H Exploration Days registration forms.

April

- Attend Ukrainian egg decorating workshop.
- Work at park clean-up day.
- Hold chocolate bunny sale as a club fund-raiser.

May

- Small animal project identification due to county MSU Extension office.
- Work at downtown flower box planting day.
- Send in club members' summer 4-H camp registration.

June

- Finish up fair projects and get ready for summer camp.
- Attend 4-H Exploration Days!
- Complete and turn in fair entries.
- Participate in countywide dog walk fund-raiser for local humane society.

July

- Attend summer 4-H camp!
- Hold club Fourth of July celebration; participate in community parade.

August

- Fair time!

