

Keeping Your Cool While Working with Youth Positive Behavior Techniques Activity

Scenario #1

The Cloverdale 4-H club is a large club with 31 members with membership that includes eight Cloverbud members and 23 4-H club members. The club officers do a good job of running the meetings which includes engaging the majority of the members in discussions about club business and future club activities. Unfortunately while most of the members are engaged in the discussions, one member always brings his Nitendo DS and plays it all during the meeting. During many of the meetings, several Cloverbud members will sit near him because they like to watch and on occasion interact with him while he is playing the game instead of paying attention to the meeting. The boy's mother usually attends the meeting but is equally busy on her iPhone responding to email and/or facebook notices.

What behavior category does this describe?

What techniques would you use to deal with this situation?

Scenario #2

You are the leader of a new 4-H club in your community. While you are new as a leader, you were a ten year 4-H member yourself and your mother was a long term 4-H volunteer. The last meeting was an organizational meeting during which time you distributed enrollment materials and county newsletters. You are very excited and have lots of new ideas you would like to share with the members and their parents so you have developed a presentation and handouts that you are sharing during the second club meeting. As you are in the middle of an activity that you put together to help members understand the hands-on part of 4-H, you notice a young girl sitting in the back of the room. She is not misbehaving, however she is also not involved in the activity that the other members are doing.

What behavior category does this describe?

What techniques would you use to deal with this situation?

Scenario #3

4-H exhibit time creates an exciting opportunity for 4-H club members to be involved in a variety of activities during their local county fair. Today is your clubs day to work at the 4-H foodstand and all of the members have been assigned different shifts to work. You have several parents who are volunteering as the “adult” support for each shift; however you have also scheduled time in your day to check in on the foodstand to see how your members are doing. As you walk to the foodstand you notice several of your club members are taking a break outside in the shade. As you are walking by the group, you notice that one of the girls seems to be upset and then you overhear one of the other girls taunting her saying, “you are a loser and the boys all think you are fat. Why don’t you go hang out with the other porkers in the swine barn.” You see one of the other girls making sniffing sounds and then hear her say, “And, you smell too – loser.” The girl who is being targeted turns and walks away while the others laugh.

What behavior category does this describe?

What techniques would you use to deal with this situation?



University of Illinois • U.S. Department of Agriculture • Local Extension Councils Cooperating
University of Illinois Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.
The 4-H Name and Emblem are Protected Under 18 U.S.C. 707.

Prepared for Nov. 17, 2011 North Central Region 4-H Volunteer e-Forum Session – *Keeping Your Cool While Working with Youth*. Presented by Pat McGlaughlin and Sheri Seibold, University of Illinois 4-H Youth Development Specialists