



NORTH CENTRAL REGION
Volunteer Specialists



4-H EZ Recipe for 4-H Club Success

Introduction

Slip Method for Planning a 4-H Club Year - Idea Derby



Supplies: Flip chart paper, markers, masking tape, sticky notes, colored adhesive dots

Using sticky notes to brainstorm ideas is a great way to engage 4-H club members and practice the youth-led, adult-guided principle. This activity fosters the sense of ownership in club members.

- 1) Post questions on flip chart paper taped on the wall for each item you want to brainstorm:
What service learning options, educational field trips, 4-H project areas, fundraisers...do you want to explore/plan as a group?
- 2) Explain that all ideas are valid and that everyone should write down at least one idea for each category on a sticky note and then place that sticky note on the large flip chart paper taped to the wall with that category written on it.
- 3) The goal is to develop as many ideas as possible around these areas in a short amount of time.
 - Categorize the slips and be ready to share with the large group. (*Depending on the age of the 4-H youth, after the group develops the possibilities, the facilitator can have them break into groups to categorize them or the facilitator can group them together.*)
 - Share ideas with the large group and try to further categorize them.
 - List these ideas for each topic on a flip chart. (Use one flip chart per topic.)
 - When all groups have shared, use the dot polling method (see below) to have members prioritize their top 2 or 3 choices, depending upon how many you think you can accomplish in that 4-H Club year.

Adapted from: Justice, T. & Jamieson, D., (1990). *The Facilitator's Fieldbook*. HRD Press, p. 182.

Dot Polling Method to Prioritize Options

- 1) Give each participant 3-5 colored adhesive dots.
- 2) Tell participants to use their dots however they choose (although they may not tear their dots). They may apply all dots to a single option they consider to be top priority listed on each flip chart, or they may distribute their dots among those options they consider to be the highest priorities. **Note:** Some facilitators number the options on each flip chart and have participants write the number of the options they choose on each dot before they go up to the flip charts to place their dots. This avoids “groupthink” or peer pressure.
- 3) Tabulate the results and circle the top item or items. You may need to facilitate another round if the results are not clear.
- 4) Present results and talk about how you will accomplish the top ranked items. As 4-H members, 4-H volunteers, and parents/caregivers, the top items in each area give you the basis for planning your 4-H club year.

