



## The Examples from 4-H Club Charters Series

### *Focus on Independence:*

### Youth Leadership and Engaging Youth Members

- It is recommended to have multiple ways for youth in each age group, to contribute to the club/group and the community. This ensures that youth with different personalities and different talents can all play a role and learn and grow through the process.
    - The Barron County 4-H Horse Project created more opportunities for youth involvement by restructuring the youth board. The restructuring included creating a youth ambassador team which was open to all members of the group. The youth ambassadors developed a new project logo, decided on clothing styles and created a safety video which was presented to all project members as part of the March mandatory safety meeting.
    - Herman Cheerio's 4-H Club of Sheboygan County has an Events and Activities Committee which is entirely youth led and operated. Club officers greet members and parents at the start of the meetings. They reach out to new families and invite them to participate in activities and make a point to engage them in the business meeting.
    - The Star Splitters 4-H Club of Manitowoc County is a club with a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) focus. Youth lead all club project activities.
    - The Beef and Dog Project Committees of Kenosha County has a youth board. Youth board members of the Beef Project Committee decide on the educational plan for the year and partner with adults to teach the content to enrolled members. Youth board members of the Dog Project Committee mentor younger members enrolled in the project, set up the course and help the adults teach.
    - The Richfield Rebels 4-H Club of Washington County holds club level 4-H Project Fairs. This member led initiative enables members to meet the club requirement of doing a hands-on project demonstration and was based on the idea of a science fair. Youth developed application and feedback forms, planned and organized the event.
    - The treasurer of the Woodmohr 4-H Club of Chippewa County completes the financial report of the annual charter renewal document.
    - The Lomira Clover Leaves 4-H Club of Dodge County has club membership divided into teams named for the 4 H's (Head, Heart, etc.). Each team is chaired by a club officer. Teams are assigned a month during which they must present demonstrations. While each member of the team presents their own demonstration, the team members help each other prepare. Teams also compete with each other to collect soda cans & tabs for charity.
    - The Linn 4-H Club Walworth County has special ambassadors for officer development and community relations
    - The Webster 4-H Club of Wood County holds a new family orientation early in the fall. The Cloverbuds lead the get acquainted activities and the club President helps lead the event.
    - Youth members of the 4-H Dog Project of Sheboygan County managed the group's walkathon and demo day at the fair.
1. While we are deeply appreciative of the fact that many groups have similar wonderful examples to share. We could not name them all and so present a sampling.
  2. Each county and club is unique and has a different way of doing things. In some cases, we have deliberately cut down the level of detail in order to ensure that the examples are applicable across the board.

- Provide youth the opportunity to be responsible for their own learning.
  - The Junior Leaders Association of Walworth County increase their knowledge and skills during their monthly programs
    - Programs are member-run and members volunteer to teach mini-workshops as part of a bigger overall program
    - Each program is preceded by a member led ice breaker
    - The ice breaker is followed by an educational segment that is staff-planned and member-delivered featuring a program or opportunity that members are encouraged to take back and share with their clubs. In 2016, the educational piece was exposure to a simple hands-on science kit or teambuilding activity kit that youth and adult leaders can check out and use at local club meetings.
- Youth Adult partnerships provide youth with the resources and the structure to learn leadership skills by engaging with and completing a project which is meaningful to them.
  - Ridgeway 4-H Club of Winnebago County supported older youth in leading 4-H project meetings by providing them with project planning templates and adult partners. Member youth
    - designed and implemented a hands-on youth science day
    - designed and implemented “Learning the pledge” meeting for Cloverbud members
    - taught project meetings
    - served as Cloverbud, summer camp and arts camp counselors at the club and state level where they designed and implemented teaching plans for youth activities
  - The Home Runners 4-H Club of La Crosse County hold club officer team building exercises
- Involve all youth members in the decision making process and provide older youth with opportunities to mentor younger members.
  - At St Lawrence Eager Beavers 4-H Club of Washington County, the Youth Leaders are project leaders for the Cloverbuds.
  - The Richfield Rebels 4-H Club of Washington County surveyed youth members in order to develop club goals for the year. Involving youth in the development and selection of club goals not only empowers the youth, it gives them ownership over the goals and motivates them to work towards reaching them.
- Provide youth with opportunities for assessing their own progress and those of their peers. Youth often hold themselves to higher standards than adults.
  - The members of Freistadt 4-H Club of Washington County help judge their own record books
  - The members of Jackson Explorers 4-H Club of Washington County do a “peer goal check” of each other’s record books
- Clubs and groups can embrace the 4-H motto of “Make the best better,” through continuous evaluation and targeted self-improvement.
  - The Leader's Association of Columbia County incorporated the [Skill Wheel](#) in both youth and club achievement rubrics
  - The Schleswig Cadets 4-H Club of Manitowoc County has end of year evaluation forms for members
  - The Busy Fingers 4-H Club of Pierce County has a club suggestion box

1. While we are deeply appreciative of the fact that many groups have similar wonderful examples to share. We could not name them all and so present a sampling.
2. Each county and club is unique and has a different way of doing things. In some cases, we have deliberately cut down the level of detail in order to ensure that the examples are applicable across the board.