



Character Counts

Fairness

What is Fairness?

Fairness means playing by the rules, taking turns, sharing, and listening.

Fair people do not take advantage of others. They consider all sides before making decisions, and they don't blame others unjustly.

Through 4-H, we can help young people develop good character by encouraging them and setting good examples for them to model. It is also important to teach children that life isn't always fair and how to handle those

situations as well.

It's pretty easy for kids and grown-ups to say "that's not fair" when they don't get what they want. Often, we see decisions that put us at a disadvantage as "unfair." However, if we begin to think about what fairness really means, we're on the road to better character. Being fair to everyone can be a lot harder than it seems and sometimes being fair and being equal aren't the same thing.

From an early age, we

all tend to have an opinion about what is fair and what isn't. One thing is clear: Fairness is often a matter of perception. Even though the underlying concepts of fairness and justice are simple, applying them in real life proves difficult.

The best way to teach fairness to children is to be consistent, concrete, and creative.

Adapted from Family Times Newsletter, West Virginia University



For Character Counts Activities please visit www.4h.uwyo.edu

Fairness in 4-H



Leaders:

- Insure all 4-her's understand rules about attendance and guidelines
- Follow/uphold the guidelines for all
- Make sure all programs are fair and do not discriminate or show prejudice
- Allow members to have roles of responsibility
- Listen to what members have to say

- Be impartial and allow all members the same opportunities
- Get the facts before making decisions

Members:

- Accept winning and losing with grace
- Follow rules and regulations for showing
- Recognize each project has different rules and standards

- Taking turns and sharing.
- Don't blame others carelessly or take advantage of others
- Listen to others

Adapted from Kansas State Character Counts for 4-H Clubs and Chaperoning with Character by Missouri 4-H

Clover Connection

- **Head** - thinking about what really is fair
- **Heart** - not taking more than what is our fair share from others, or the environment
- **Hands** - using fairness when we work with others.
- **Health** - treating everyone the same, even when we're dealing with our own challenges.