



Character Counts

Fairness

What is Fairness?

According to the Encarta dictionary, fair means to be reasonable or unbiased: not exhibiting any bias, and therefore reasonable or impartial. We all have our biases. It's a part of the human condition. But it's important to recognize what they are for us individually. Do you prefer athletes, introverts, girls, lefties, red-heads or Libras? It doesn't matter in the least unless you FAVOR one of those groups. We must learn to

live with our preferences and work on keeping them out of our 4-H program.

Each child enters our 4-H world with their own set of biases, most of which they learn from home. Children may have never been exposed to different people until they enter school, extra-curricular activities, or clubs, and may have no concept of how to interact. They count on you as leaders or older 4-H members to teach them how to interact with dif-

ferent groups by modeling good character.

Adapted from Helium.com, Teaching Tips: The Importance of Fairness in the Classroom.



"We judge ourselves by what we feel capable of doing, while others judge us by what we have already done."
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Fairness in 4-H

Fairness is important in all settings, especially those involving competition. Competition is a part of many 4-H projects and events. Some may mistakenly become focused on the external prize in competition, instead of the internal learning and personal growth of the experience. This can even cause someone to feel a need to exaggerate facts

or include irrelevant information in materials submitted for review. Goals consistent with 4-H ideals focus on realistic achievement. Leaders and parents need to set clear rules and stick to them. Encourage children to set real, measurable goals that they can achieve.

Adapted from the Nebraska 4-H Career Portfolio

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



Clover Connection

- **Head** - Follow recommended procedure in the showing and follow proper fitting and grooming procedures. Follow the rules for each project.
- **Heart** - Don't belittle other 4-H members projects or abilities. Treat other competitors as you would like to be treated.
- **Hands** - Help younger members that are still learning. Do the work for the project, even if it isn't as good as when a parent or leader does it.
- **Health** - Use only approved drugs on animal projects. Feed only approved livestock rations.

Adapted from Louisiana State 4-H, What is the real Purpose of 4-H Livestock Projects?