



that's what we're made of

Character Counts Fairness

For all of the Character Counts news letter inserts please visit www.4h.uwyo.edu

help them as "fair" and those that don't as "unfair."

What is Fairness?

We all want to be treated fairly—at home, in school and in 4-H. From an early age, you've probably had strong opinions about what is fair and what isn't. Everyone does.

Fairness is, however, one of the most difficult Pillars of Character, to clearly define. People often simply see those decisions that

Fairness Do's and Don'ts:

- ◆ Do treat all people fairly.
- ◆ Do make impartial decisions, using the same criteria, rules or standards for everyone.
- ◆ Do correct your mistakes.
- ◆ Don't take more than your fair share.

What is one thing each of you could do in your club to be more fair?

From charactercounts.org

Clover Connection

- **Head** - Listen to people with an open mind
- **Heart** - Show fairness to others
- **Hands** - Use rules consistently for the same circumstances
- **Health** - Don't blame others for your mistakes

"Fairness is what justice really is" - Potter Stewart

Fairness in 4-H: 4-H Club Activity - "Unfair Feelings"



This activity is designed to have the club members experience a situation(s) that is not fair, talk about how they felt when they were treated unfairly and come up with potential solutions or changes that would make things more fair. Come up with several unfair activities or rules for the club meeting but don't tell the members what is going on. Some examples are 1) divide the members into 2 teams for a question-and-answer contest and rig the contest so that one team gets all the easy questions and handily beats the other or 2) pass out 2 types of stickers to the members and allow only the members wearing one type of sticker to talk during the meeting. Once the members begin to notice and object to the unfair treatment, explain that the activities/rules were designed to be unfair. Have the members talk about why they feel they were treated unfairly and how it made them feel. Discuss the importance of fairness in 4-H or school and what kinds of problems result from unjust treatment. Break the members into small groups and have each group write a step-by-step solution to one of the resulting problems they identified. Ask the members what specific types of behavior are necessary for the solutions to be effective and for the problems to be avoided altogether.

Like this activity? Find more like it in the "Good Ideas Book" at your local Extension Office