



that's what we're made of

Character Counts Fairness



Do you judge people unfairly?

We often make judgments about people based upon our first impression. Is that fair? Can you think of a time when you formed an opinion about someone that you just met and it turned out to be wrong? I can. Once I made an assumption that a person was stuck up because she didn't talk to me or make eye contact. Later, when I got to know her, I realized she was just really shy. Was it fair of me to make that assumption? Was it fair of me to make a judgment about her based upon that assumption?

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character"

Martin Luther King, Jr.
www.brainyquote.com

Fairness in 4-H



4-H Club Activity

To be fair to people, we need to make accurate judgments about them. A good way to do that, is to get to know them. This is an activity that will help club members understand the importance of getting to know others before jumping to conclusions about what they THINK the other person is like.

During a club meeting, have members make trading cards using an index card and their picture. Instruct members to glue their picture on the left hand edge of

one side of the card and write 5 characteristics about their personality on the back side. Examples might include shy, funny, curious, talkative, etc. It can be anything that describes their personality. Laminate the finished card and collect them to be used at upcoming meetings.

At the next meeting, randomly draw 2 cards at a time and have those 2 members pair up. Ask them not to look at the back side of the card. Using dry erase markers, ask the members to write 5 characteristics

they think they know about their partner on the front side of their partner's trading card (side with the picture). Did they identify characteristics that their partner listed for themselves? What did they learn about their partner? Have them discuss what they did and didn't know about their partner.

Do this throughout the year until all members have been paired up.

Adapted from SDSU Cooperative Extension Service, Fairness Pillar Activity Quickies

Clover Connection

My head to clearer thinking

Be open-minded

My heart to greater loyalty

Be fair and just

My hands to larger service

Take only your fair share leaving enough for others

My health to better living

Treat others fairly to boost your own self esteem