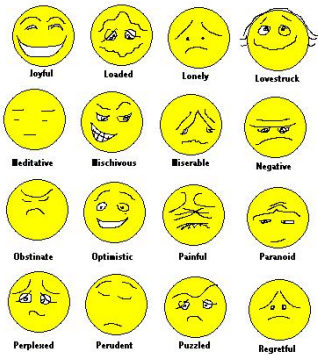


WYOMING CHARACTER



that's what we're made of

For character counts activities
please visit www.4h.uwyo.edu



It's your life, your one and
only life—so take excel-
lence very personally."
~Scott Johnson

Character Counts Responsibility

May 2011

RESPONSIBILITY

Life is full of choices.....

Which path will you take?

Responsibility in the Webster dictionary is defined as: liable to be called upon to answer for one's acts or decisions; able to fulfill one's obligations. In 4-H we take it further and should recognize that for every action, there is a reaction or consequence. What we do or don't do matters and we have the ability to choose our attitudes, words and actions. Our attitude has the ability to propel us forward toward victories or bog us down in defeat.

When we set our 4-H goals for the year we can work our hardest and have a positive attitude toward our progress and embrace the challenges that we are faced with. We also have the ability to get bogged down in the negative, blame others for things that do not go our way or the challenges we face.

As we pursue excellence in 4-H, each 4-H member, volunteer and parent can choose their path — the *positive* or the negative. As you communicate with others be aware of your attitude, words and actions. Are they moving you down the path you would like to take?

Responsibility Activity

Time needed:

15-20 minutes

Supplies Needed:

- ⇒ 3-5 balloons for each participant
- ⇒ Pencils or pens
- ⇒ 3-5 small pieces of papers (2-3 inch squares) for each participant

Instructions:

Introduce what responsibility is. For every action there is a reaction or consequence. Following the discussion, have youth identify examples of parts of their lives that they are responsible for. This could include homework, feeding their animals, laundry, cooking dinner, following the rules, etc.

After the youth have each listed examples orally have them write down 3-5 things they are responsible for on the small pieces of paper provided. One item on each piece of paper. Then have them put one piece of paper in each balloon, blow up the balloons and tie them off—you may have to help tie the balloon.

Then the youth form a circle and play volleyball with all the balloons, with the goal of not letting any drop on the floor. If a balloon falls on the floor, they cannot pick it up and start passing it to others. After 30 seconds stop the game. Have the youth pop the balloons that fell on the floor and share which responsibility did not get completed and what would be the consequence for that action. You can repeat the game with the balloon that were still in play.

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