CREATING A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IN THE 4-H PROGRAM.

WHILE WE WAIT FOR EVERYONE TO ARRIVE PLEASE WRITE YOUR NAME AND COUNTY IN THE CHAT BOX.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE!
CREATING A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT
WHY IS THIS TOPIC SO IMPORTANT?
WHAT IS FOUND IN A WELCOMING CLUB / PROJECT?

• INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT
  • YOUTH (FAMILIES) NEED FEEL LIKE THEY ARE WELCOME

• CARING ADULT
  • YOUTH FEEL CARED ABOUT AND ACCEPTED BY OTHERS.
  • DEVELOP SUPPORTIVE RELATIONSHIPS THAT LAST A LIFETIME.

• SAFE EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT
  • YOUTH WILL NOT ENGAGE UNLESS THEY ARE COMFORTABLE IN THEIR SURROUNDINGS
  • ADULT MAY NOT VOLUNTEER IF THEY DON’T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE SITUATION
INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE

• Youth members encourage each other during fair judging, sporting events, and academic challenges.

• Members feel they belonging to a specific club or group, while also knowing they belonging to a larger state and national organization.

• Signs, banners, shirts, and recognition bearing the 4-H emblem

• All members feel free to invite friends and welcome new member to events throughout the program year.
TRADITIONS

• ORDER OF YOUR MEETING
• MEETING LOCATION
• MEETING DECORATIONS
• WHERE PEOPLE SIT
• WHERE PEOPLE ENTER
• LANGUAGE USED AT MEETINGS

• A Seven Year Old
• A Junior in High School
• A youth with a physical disability
• Someone from a different culture of ethnic group
• Single mom with a baby
• A youth with a severe behavioral disability
• A family that just got done choiring and is in barn clothes
• Grandparents raising grandchildren
HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

• ENCOURAGE TIES WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
• ENCOURAGE COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE LEARNING
• HAVE ICEBREAKERS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY MEETING
  • HTTP://WWW.UWYO.EDU/4-H/VOLUNTEERS/
Training Opportunities

- New Leader Orientation
- Master 4-H Volunteers
- Teaching Outlines/Activities
- 4-H Shooting Sports Certification
- 4-H Chaperone Training
- Creating a Welcoming Environment Training
  - Welcome Poster
  - Pledge Poster
  - All About Me
  - Icebreakers
  - Games and Activities
  - 4-H Recognition Model
HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

• ENCOURAGE TIES WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

• ENCOURAGE COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE LEARNING

• HAVE ICEBREAKERS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY MEETING
  • HTTP://WWW.UWYOE.EDU/4-H/VOLUNTEERS/

• PROVIDE MANY FORMS OF RECOGNITION, NOT JUST THOSE WHO EXCEL COMPETITIVELY
  • HTTP://WWW.UWYOE.EDU/4-H/VOLUNTEERS/
National 4-H Recognition Model

Recognition is one way to help young people become self-directed, productive and contributing citizens. 4-H uses five types of recognition. Each supports, motivates, and encourages young people in a unique way. This model presents a balanced approach to effectively using recognition as a way of motivating 4-H'ers.

1. Participation in educational experiences.
3. Achieving standards of excellence.
4. Excelling in peer competition.
5. Demonstrating excellence in cooperation.

Participation

Participation is a type of recognition that emphasizes the importance of recognizing young people who have been involved in 4-H educational experiences. For some young people, especially beginners, low resources, and those with disabilities, taking part in a 4-H learning experience is a significant accomplishment. All youth find this recognition meaningful. This is the first step in building positive self-esteem.

Examples: stickers, pins, certificates, participation cards, news articles, t-shirts, caps.
HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

• ENCOURAGE TIES WITH FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
• ENCOURAGE COLLABORATIVE AND COOPERATIVE LEARNING
• HAVE ICEBREAKERS AT THE BEGINNING OF EVERY MEETING
  • HTTP://WWW.UWYO.EDU/4-H/VOLUNTEERS/
• PROVIDE MANY FORMS OF RECOGNITION, NOT JUST THOSE WHO EXCEL COMPETITIVELY
  • HTTP://WWW.UWYO.EDU/4-H/VOLUNTEERS/
• SHOW RESPECT FOR THE VALUE OF DIVERSE CULTURES
• ENCOURAGE SUPPORTIVE PEER RELATIONSHIPS
WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?
WHERE DOES IT HAPPEN?

• PHONE CALLS TO LEADERS
• ENTERING THE MEETING
• FEELING WELCOMED
• EDUCATION / PROJECT TALKS AT MEETING
• RECREATION AT MEETING OR OUTSIDE OF MEETING TIME
MORE IDEAS

• CLOTHING
• SIGNAGE
WELCOME
MORE IDEAS

• CLOTHING
• SIGNAGE
• PLEDGE CARDS
THE 4-H PLEDGE

I pledge...

my **HEAD** to clearer thinking.

my **HEART** to greater loyalty.

my **HANDS** to larger service.

my **HEALTH** to better living.

For my club, my community, my country and my world.
WHAT IS A CARING ADULT?
THINK BACK TO AN ADULT THAT HAD A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON YOU...
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE

• ADULTS CALL YOUTH BY THEIR FIRST NAMES.

• ADULTS IN THE CLUB KNOW THE INTERESTS OF YOUTH MEMBERS.

• ADULTS KNOW WHAT KIDS ARE DOING BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE 4-H PROGRAM.
HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

• MAKE SMALL-GROUP TIME AVAILABLE TO ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN CLUB

• PROVIDE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

• CREATE A PHOTO MEMBER LIBRARY

• ALL ABOUT ME NOTEBOOK
ALL ABOUT ME!

My name is...
I am ___ years old.
I was born on...
I live in...
My favorite color is...
My favorite number is...
My favorite food is...
When I grow up, I want to be a...
My favorite animal is...
I like to...
HOW TO MAKE IT HAPPEN?

• MAKE SMALL-GROUP TIME AVAILABLE TO ALLOW THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITHIN CLUB

• PROVIDE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH TO DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH ADULTS

• CREATE A PHOTO MEMBER LIBRARY

• ALL ABOUT ME NOTEBOOK

• USE NAMETAGS

• ADULTS NEED TO LISTEN
A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

• A CLUB THAT ENCOURAGES AND SUPPORTS MEMBERS.
• A PHYSICALLY SAFE LOCATION
• A PLACE WHERE MEMBERS KNOW THAT NO ONE WILL MAKE FUN OF THEM, INSULT THEM, OR THREATEN THEM.
DAVEY’S STORY
IS YOUR GROUP A DANGER ZONE?

• UNSAFE GROUNDS / PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT
• CANDLES / FIRE
• OLDER MEMBERS PICKING ON YOUNGER MEMBERS
• ACCESS TO KNIVES
• ACCESS TO CLEANING SOLUTIONS
• BREAKABLE ITEMS YOUTH MIGHT HAVE ACCESS TO, GLASS
• FIREARMS
• MEMBER IS UNABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS AND MADE FUN OF
REVIEW

• RESEARCH SHOWS THAT A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IS CONSIDERED A TOP PRIORITY TO ENSURE THAT YOUTH HAVE A POSITIVE 4-H EXPERIENCE.

• A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IS INCLUSIVE.

• A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT HAS CARING ADULTS

• A WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IS SAFE BOTH PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY
LETTER TO ME

BASED ON WHAT YOU LEARNED TODAY WRITE YOURSELF A LETTER ABOUT THINGS YOU CAN DO (PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY) TO MAKE YOUR CLUB, PROJECT, ETC. A MORE WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT IN THE NEXT 6-12 MONTHS.

SEND LETTER TO STORBERT@UWYO.EDU
SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY

• OUR NEXT TRAINING WILL BE FEBRUARY 19TH AT 6:30 PM
  TOPIC WILL BE THE OPPORTUNITIES IN THE 4-H PROGRAM
• QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT STORBERT@UWYO.EDU
• WEBSITE FOR RESOURCES HTTP://WWW.UWYO.EDU/4-H/VOLUNTEERS/