Concept: Belonging

Essential Element: A Safe Emotional and Physical Environment

Youth should not fear physical or emotional harm while participating in a 4-H experience, whether from the learning environment itself or from adults, other participants or spectators.

What Does this Look Like in a Club?
- Youth members do not tolerate bullying, cliques or put downs within their clubs.
- The club will work in safe areas that limits the amount of danger present.
- The area will be adequately equipped for activities that will take place.
- All members, leaders and adults know the safety risks (emotionally and physically), and are trained to manage the risks accordingly.

How do we support this Element in our clubs?
- Make sure every activity and situation is treated consistently within your club
- Make sure all volunteers are screened before they begin working with youth and receive continual training in safety and child protection
- Make sure all leaders, adults, and youth are trained in safety and risk management practices.
- Actively engage youth in planning implementing and evaluating programs.
- Include the youth voice when strategizing ways to improve the group’s environment.

Re-enforcement Activity/Ice Breaker

1. Have all members sit in a line.
2. Start at the beginning of the line and whisper a “rumor” about someone in the room or make someone up but only tell the first person.
3. Have the member whisper in the next person’s ear.
4. After everyone has heard the “rumor” have the last person in the line tell the group what they heard.
5. Tell the group what was originally said.
6. Reflect about the rumors that you told and how rumors can change.

How do members feel about rumors? How do rumors hurt them emotionally? How can they help stop rumors and stop bringing others down emotionally.

"The Key to success in life is to keep growing in all areas of life-mental, emotional, spiritual as well as physical" - Julius Erving