

Bringing New Members Into Your 4-H Council/Committee/Club

Purpose: Icebreakers and other get acquainted activities help introduce new members to an existing group. Facilitated activities are important because not everyone in a group is going to be outgoing enough to meet new people on their own. The quicker all members become comfortable with one another, the quicker your entire group will become an effective team. The time you invest in facilitating this first step of group development will result in a cohesive group with members who have a better chance of understanding one another and working together to further the mission of 4-H.

Following are two activities that could be used in any group. One is designed to help group members get to know one another. The second will help your group become aware of the individual resources each person brings to the group. The second activity could help your group see the wealth of resources you have as a group. It could also help your group identify gaps in resources. Are there resources your group needs to be successful in fulfilling the mission of 4-H? Just knowing where the gaps are at will allow for targeted recruitment of individuals who might bring the resources your group is missing. These activities could be used separately or together.

“I am” Give each person an 8 ½ x 11 inch sheet of paper and a marker. Ask them to write six statements about who they are that are not visible. “I am Sue Smyth,

- ✓ An engineer
- ✓ A new resident
- ✓ A fun-loving person
- ✓ A gardener
- ✓ A chocoholic
- ✓ A first-generation American”

Taking turns, ask each participant to show the group their list and read their statements to the group.

“I am a Resource” Give each participant several 5x8 inch index cards and a marker. Ask them to write one resource they bring to the group on each index card. “I am Bud Jones, I

- ✓ Speak Spanish
- ✓ Am a computer buff
- ✓ Am a CPA
- ✓ Like to build things
- ✓ Like to organize things”

When they have finished writing, ask the members, one at a time, to share one of their resources with the group and tape it to the wall (round robin style). Taping similar resources together in the same place on the wall will allow your group to quickly see the strengths and gaps.

Resource: [Leadership Skills Developing Volunteers for Organizational Success](#)

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