



# Strengthening 4-H Clubs





# Types of 4-H Clubs

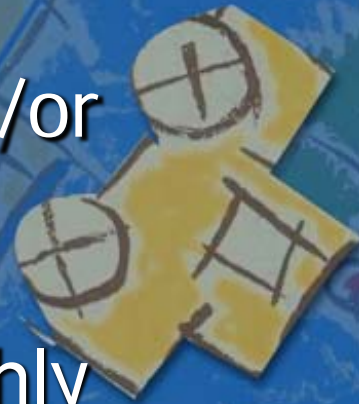
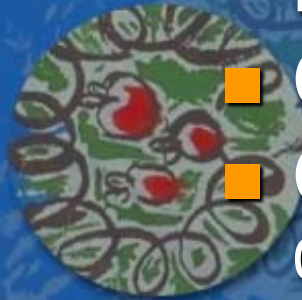
- Community Club
- Project Club
- School Club
- After School Club
- Military Club





# Minimum Requirements for Clubs

- Enrollment of at least 5 members, at least one club manager and as many volunteers as needed
- Enrollment of as many project and/or activity leaders as required
- Elected officers
- Holds regularly scheduled or monthly meetings
- Conducts project meetings as needed
- Conducts a service learning and/or community service project





# Benefits of Club Experience

“High Impact”

Long-term involvement

Sequential project learning experiences





# Benefits of Long-Term Involvement

## Life skills

- Responsibility
- Communication
- Decision Making
- Record Keeping
- Goal Setting
- Acceptance of others
- Teamwork

## Leadership

- Teaching others
- Public Speaking

## Citizenship

- Concern for others/the community
- Serving others/the community





# What is a 4-H Project?

A 4-H Project has 4 components.

- Five (5) or more sequential learning experiences at least 30 minutes in length
- Community Service
- Leadership
- Exhibition of Project Work





# Think of the 4-H Project as...

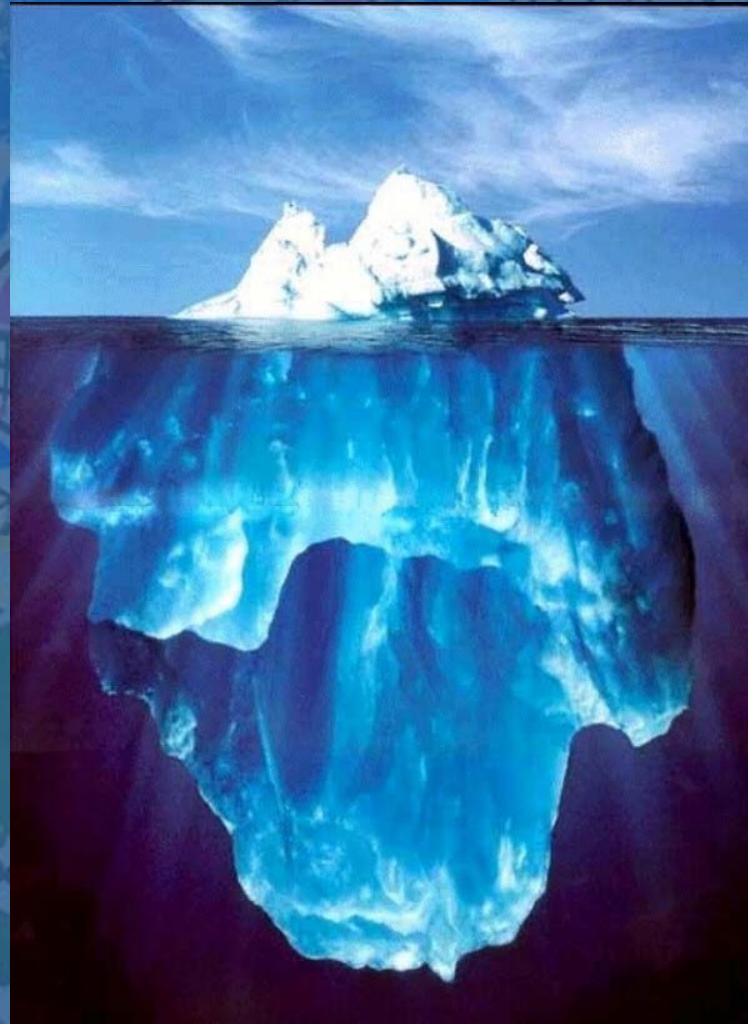
A College Major (The Project) with a course of study (the project experiences that make up the project)

As an Architectural Structure (must have all the components of a structure for it to be sound – walls, floor, ceiling, roof, windows, utilities, etc)





Or think of it as....







# Learning Experiences

## Examples of Learning Experiences

Educational Tours

Workshops

Clinics

Contests

Demonstrations

Interviews of  
Experts

Educational  
Presentations

Exhibits

Expos

Speeches

Videos/DVD

Television shows

Bowls

Self-study: Magazines,  
internet research





# Community Service

Examples of Community Service Projects

*Definition: helping others and your community*

Community Service Guide

<http://tx4-h.tamu.edu/commserve/csprojects.htm>





# Community Service Vs. Service Learning

What's the difference?

Moving beyond "make it, take it" to kids being involved in identifying needs, making a plan, and evaluating the project

Service Learning expands the level of involvement and learning for youth

Service Learning gives youth an opportunity for more creative input





# Leadership

## Examples of Leadership

*Definition: help other people achieve goals through guidance; teaching or leading others.*

Teaching/Guiding others  
Conducting a workshop  
Organize a group activity  
Share information with others

Demonstration/speech  
Assist an adult  
Plan a tour  
Junior/Teen Leader  
Lead an activity





# Exhibit Project Work

Share what you have learned with someone else

Contest

Livestock show

Educational presentation

Speech

Fair

Demonstration

Project meeting

On-Line?





# Timeline for a 4-H Project

- Projects can take place any time of the year
- Each project has its own timeline
- Some projects' timelines are designated by contests or exhibitions. Some include:

Foods & Nutrition

Clothing & Textiles

Livestock projects

Horse





# Create a blue ribbon child, not a blue ribbon project





# Make a Plan for 212° (the extra degree)

Listen

Educate

Market

Communicate

Empower







# Listen/Support

What are the needs of:

- club members
- volunteers/parents
- club managers
- others





# Education

- Family Guide
- New Family Orientation
- 4-H Clover
- Project One pagers (new)
- Record Keeping Tools (MAP etc...)
- Others?





# Marketing

## Promotional Materials

- General 4-H promotional piece
- 4-H Club promotional piece
- Enrichment curriculum promotion
- Volunteer promotional piece

Audiences to promote to....





# Communication

- Club manager training and support
- Monthly/bimonthly 4-H Newsletter
- Club Manager Newsletter
- Ask directly....how is it going?
- Others?





# Empowerment

Mentors (group new members with current members)

Email, blogs, web sites, wiki's

Welcomed and wanted!





# County Exercise

Quality 4-H Club Plan





# Resources – TX 4-H Mgt. System

Membership Units

Defining and Organizing 4-H units

Leadership Opportunities in clubs

4-H Club Chartering and By-laws

Planning and conducting 4-H club meetings

Parliamentary Procedure

Community Service





# Resources – TX 4-H Mgt. System - TOOLS

Annual 4-H Club Planning Worksheets

Annual 4-H Club Planning Form

Sample letter to parents

Parent interest form







# Club Ed.

3 years of Resources  
2008-09 on line - NEW!

1. Club Activities
2. Club Managers Checklist
3. Community Service Activities
4. Flag Ceremonies
5. Ice Breakers
6. Parent Opportunities
7. Program Ideas
8. Officer Installation Ceremonies





# In the works.....

- Series of 4 club manager trainings
- Create club manager training agendas and support pieces
- Conflict resolution for club managers
- Club programming for specific ages
- Virtual membership/club
- Resources for starting clubs
- Much more...

