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**

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<td>Educational Presentations</td>
<td>Self-study: Magazines, internet research</td>
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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?
Projects can take place any time of the year
- Each project has its own timeline
- Some project’s 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….