



4-H and the Community

The strength and success of a local 4-H club are directly related to the amount of support provided by local people. A new 4-H Club is typically not organized until parents in an area volunteer to serve as leaders. Organized support of a sponsoring group is desirable because it assures early assistance and high interest of area people to support the new club. To strengthen community support and participation, follow these guidelines when planning activities:

- Encourage as many people in the community as possible to be involved in 4-H programs often. Invite parents; church; school and business leaders; civic groups; women's groups; and others.
- Begin by developing a list of groups and individuals in your area who could help the local club. List ways that each might assist. Keep this list current by recording what each individual or group does.

In working with people in your community, remember that:

- People like to be recognized for the things they do well.
- People are interested in and support something in which they take an active part.
- The club benefits by using the talents available in the community.
- The club should help other groups and individuals.
- Community pride is strengthened when people work together positively.
- All groups in a community or neighborhood gain much when they join together in some project.
- When planning your annual club program, consider the meeting dates, special days and areas of service of other organizations.

Success attracts success, and your efforts in publicizing your program usually will make it easier to obtain community support.

Reference: This publication is an edited and updated version of the "Texas 4-H Leaders Handbook."



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