



Lesson Objectives:

A leader is a person who inspires groups and identifies goals in a positive manner. In 4-H leadership roles, members learn leadership skills including teamwork and communication.

Time:

10-15 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Paper

Preparations:

- Review Lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies

4-H Club GO TO Resources



September 2021

Exploring 4-H Communication

If you ask 4-H members and alumni to name one of the most valuable life skills they learned during their 4-H careers, many would list the confidence gained through participating in communications projects. 4-H youth development strives to equip members with the knowledge and skills they need to become successful adults. Effective communication and public speaking skills are vital to tomorrow's leaders... and that all starts at your 4-H Club Meetings.

Here is a fun way to see how easy it is to communicate and listen!

Activity: Follow My Lead

How easy is it to communicate instructions? Try this activity with your 4-H Club. Give each person a piece of paper and then read directions to them. This exercise requires listening to and following directions.

First, close your eyes. Keep them closed. As you hear the instructions perform the task. You may not ask questions. You must keep your eyes closed. This exercise requires no talking.

1. Fold your sheet of paper in half.
2. Tear off the upper right corner.
3. Fold your paper in half again.
4. Tear the lower right corner.
5. Fold your paper in half.

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6. Tear off the upper left corner.
7. Fold in half a final time.
8. Tear off the lower left corner.
9. Unfold the paper and hold it up.
10. Open your eyes, look at your product and compare it with others.

Reflect on Your Experience:

Was it difficult to not ask questions or ask for clarification?

Even with the same instructions, did everyone's product look different?

Was it difficult not having a visual to look at?

When you communicate with others, people interpret things differently so they may not receive the message you send. As a leader, you must communicate a clear message and be open to answering questions. How can you do that? Remember, leaders demonstrate leadership by being a role model/ visual model for others to follow.

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Sources & Additional Lesson info:

4-H Club GO TO Resources is being offered to 4-H clubs in Boone, DeKalb and Ogle Counties as a way to enrich and enhance 4-H experiences and programming at the club level. It is the goal of the Extension staff to assist 4-H leaders and officers in providing simple hands-on activities on a monthly basis that can broaden the 4-H club experience and as a result heighten positive youth development.

Resources:

Illinois 4-H Spark Ideas. Ignite Possibilities: Exploring 4-H Leadership: <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/project-spark-sheets>

University of Kentucky: Communication is an important part of 4-H youth development—Jennifer Tackett

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