

The Jeffersons' First Club Meeting

ABOVE THE SURFACE

The Jefferson family is attending their first 4-H club meeting to learn what 4-H is all about. Upon arriving, they are greeted by a few club members and are invited to take a seat. They're not introduced during the meeting. During the business portion, the club discusses upcoming 4-H events, the LQA&E policy for 4-H members with animals, who might want to attend YELLO!, State Ambassador applications, and the County Fair registration deadlines. The club emphasizes the need for completed and updated enrollment via 4HOnline, especially medical information for camp. The Jeffersons are observing the meeting intently. One parent, Gloria Jefferson, turns to a parent from another family, Tonya Troupe, to ask her to explain YELLO!, LQA&E, 4HOnline, and Ambassadors. Tonya shares that she doesn't know either, and then she complains about the club leader's organization and follow-through in her daughters' six months in the club. The Jeffersons are overheard saying they are overwhelmed by how much there is to learn in 4-H and wonder if 4-H is a good fit.

Mark Showing Rabbits at the Fair

ABOVE THE SURFACE

Mark has been in 4-H for just over a year. Well-liked by his peers, Mark has been involved in project bowls and STEM activities. Anne, Mark's mother, feels like he has truly blossomed in 4-H within his club and has seen the ways that he has benefitted from being involved. Mark has cerebral palsy and requires a wheelchair to get around. For the upcoming county fair, Mark has decided he would like to try to show rabbits. In helping Mark to prepare, Anne realizes that the 4-H building at the fair isn't wheelchair accessible. Also, the tables on which Mark will show his rabbits are far too tall to accommodate someone who is sitting in a wheelchair.

Rocky and the Indiana 4-H Strategic Plan

ABOVE THE SURFACE

Rocky, a 4-H parent and volunteer, is at his county's 4-H Leader's meeting when the discussion arises about how his county can meet the diversity goals outlined in the Indiana 4-H Youth Development strategic plan. Joe, a parent volunteer who has been involved in 4-H since a kid, becomes very vocal about how the county does not have diversity. He says, "We hardly have the capacity, resources, or time to serve our own kids. Plus, our county does not have the mandate to serve new youth, and our volunteers won't help with this initiative." Rocky speaks up and says that 4-H needs to be welcoming to all youth, but Joe then becomes more vocal about his concerns and asks, "Why does diversity in 4-H even matter?" He adds that the kinds of activities that those kids are involved in are not "real 4-H."

Supporting Sadie through Economic Hardship

ABOVE THE SURFACE

Sadie's family is on a very tight budget, based on information that has been shared with the 4-H club leader. When the 4-H camping trip comes up at the meeting, Sadie becomes visibly upset. Once the \$50 price tag for attendance at the event is announced, she becomes disruptive and says the camping trip is stupid. Suddenly Sadie doesn't want to participate, though just last week she talked nonstop about how excited she was to go camping for the first time. She tells her friends not to go on the trip because it will be boring. How should the club leader work through this uncomfortable situation?

Bringing out Zander's Gifts

ABOVE THE SURFACE

Zander is a 10th grade 4-H member admired by other members and adults alike. He is seen as a leader because of the skill he shows in connecting to younger members in the club. Zander always helps to explain things to them during the 4-H club meetings and helps them find ways they can contribute. Zander is especially great at art and woodworking. Because of his shining personality and kindness, Zander is elected to be the club's president. He reluctantly accepts the role. Over the course of a few meetings, Zander becomes irritable with the previous young members that he consistently helped. Normally happy and easygoing, Zander takes an annoyed tone with his peers and is defiant towards the volunteers who support the club.
