



Ethics Awareness

Indiana 4-H Civic Engagement Activity

Ethical Versus Unethical

Overview: This lesson considers what our actions and/or words might be saying to others who observe or interact with us. Are we sending the message we intend to send as a 4-H member or a leader?

Objectives: Participants discuss the meaning of the terms "ethical" and "unethical." Participants learn the process for ethical decision-making. Participants use ethical decision making to determine whether their card in Ethical vs. Unethical is ethical or unethical.

Materials: Set of Ethical/Unethical Cards for each small group (cut apart on card stock)

Duration: 30 – 45 minutes

Instructions

- Have partners discuss the meaning of ethical and unethical.
- Have partners share their definitions or synonyms with the group. Definitions according to Merriam-Webster

Definitions

Ethical: involving questions of right and wrong behavior; relating to ethics; following accepted rules of behavior; morally right and good. Synonyms: all right, decent, good, honest, honorable, just, moral, nice, right, righteous, right-minded, straight, true, upright, virtuous

Unethical: not conforming to a high moral standard; morally unacceptable. Synonyms: black, dark, evil, immoral, iniquitous, nefarious, rotten, sinful, unlawful, unrighteous, unsavory, vicious, vile, villainous, wicked, wrong

- Explain the practice for making ethical decisions. Ask youth what they can do to practice ethical decision-making.

To practice ethical decision-making, I will:

- ✓ Get the facts.
 - ✓ Consider what is best for most.
 - ✓ Ask, "Does the action respect the rights of everyone?"
 - ✓ Ask, "Does it treat everyone in the same way? Does it show favoritism and discrimination?"
 - ✓ Ask, "Does the action make policies, systems, institutions, and environment beneficial to all?"
 - ✓ Take actions to develop our highest potential.
 - ✓ Weigh the facts and ethical considerations.
- Participants use ethical decision making to discuss situations on ethical versus unethical cards of Ethics Card Game.

Discussion Questions:

- How do the words you speak and the actions you take affect yourself and others?
- When must you consider whether a choice is ethical or unethical?
- Can a leader make both ethical and unethical decisions?
- What steps do you think should be added to ethical decision making?

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