

Skill-a-Thon



Objectives

1. Organize a hands-on learning lab to enhance members' knowledge of a specific project area.
2. Help members build their self confidence and communications skills.
3. Provide additional opportunities to recognize members for their accomplishments.
4. Provide an objective means to measure members' knowledge of subject material.



Traits of a Skill-a-Thon

- 4-H members learn by doing activities.
- Members develop personal and project skills.
- Members visit a series of learning stations.
- A facilitator oversees each station.
- Participants rotate to each station to perform the given task.



Traits of a Skill-a-Thon

- Participants test their knowledge and abilities before receiving help.
- If they falter, the members receive suggestions from facilitators.
- Leaders can use this in a variety of settings.
- Leaders can involve several project groups at one time.



Organizing a Skill-a-Thon

Questions to answer:

- What are your objectives?
- What age are the members who will participate?
- What are the members' interests?
- What resources or study materials are available?



Identify Your Audience

- What interests do your club members have?
 - Livestock, Natural Resources, Consumer and Family Science, Plant Science, Other
- Would they like to participate in a Skill-a-Thon at a Club meeting, during a workshop, or in some other venue?
- Are they interested in a career in a specific industry?



Select Resources

- Include study materials that focus on specific information that members should learn.
- Resources should be easily understood.
- Resources should include age-appropriate terminology and activities.



Prepare the Station Information

- Title
- Supplies
- Directions
- Situation
- Task



Recruit and Prepare the Station Facilitator

- Identify individuals who can fulfill the role of Station Facilitator.
- Provide resource materials to help the facilitator understand the topic.
- Compile a list of questions to ask the members.
- Set up the station with the appropriate supplies.

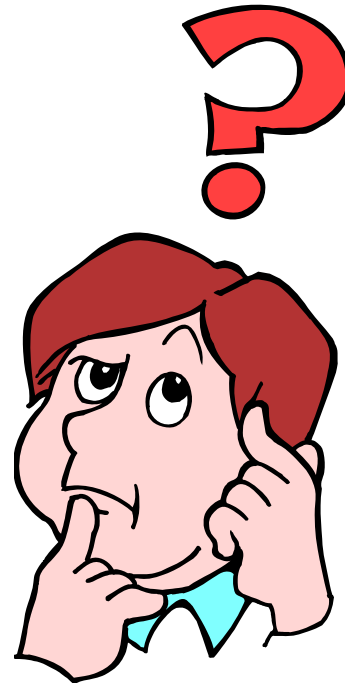


Recruit and Prepare the Station Facilitator

- Prepare directions that will allow the members to complete the station tasks.
- Facilitate the learning situation for each team.
- Assist members only after they have had a chance to experience the activity and faltered.



Conclusion & Quiz



Sources

- McKinley, S. (2005). *Positive Youth Development and Life Skill Development*. Retrieved December 14, 2007, from www.four-h.purdue.edu/downloads/volunteer/ppt/PYD%20Life%20Skill%20Development%20Volunteer%20Website.ppt

