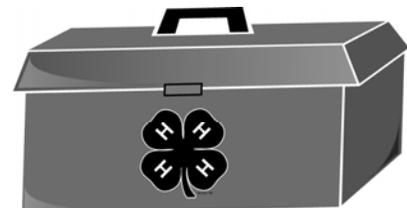


# 1

## “Engaging Older Members within the Local Club”

### Lesson Plan





## Learning Objectives

1. Identify characteristics of older youth.
2. Define advantages of youth-adult partnerships.
3. Describe levels of youth participation.
4. Share recommendations for successful youth-adult partnerships.
5. Identify ways to engage older members.

## Intended Audience

This lesson plan was developed for use with adult volunteers.



## Supplies & Resources Needed

- “Engaging Older Members within the Local Club” lesson plan with instructional objectives
- Notes pages of PowerPoint presentation with talking points
- LCD projector and laptop with PowerPoint presentation loaded
- Copies of PowerPoint slides printed as a three-slides/page handout for each participant
- Copies of "4-H Club Meeting Checklist" for each participant
- Copies of lesson plan quiz for each participant
- Pencils or pens for volunteers to take notes and complete the quiz
- Copies of “Utilizing Older Members within the Local Club” fact sheet



## References

- Justiniano, J. and Scherer, C. (2001). Youth Voice: A Guide for Engaging Youth In Leadership and Decision-Making in Service Learning Programs. Washington, D.C.: Points of Light Foundation. Available at [http://www.ysa.org/pdffiles/YV\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.ysa.org/pdffiles/YV_Guide.pdf). Used by permission.
- University of Nebraska 4-H (2007). Ladder of Youth Participation. Retrieved November 19, 2008, from <http://4h.unl.edu/programs/leadership/YAPartnerships/ladder.htm>
- Woessner, Lisa. Youth and Adult Partnerships. Retrieved November 19, 2008, from <http://www.4-h.uiuc.edu/opps/articles003.html>

## Projected Length

20-25 minutes

## Instructor Notes

- If you will be using the PowerPoint presentation to share this lesson with the volunteers, set up the laptop and LCD projector prior to the start of the program and test the equipment to be sure it is working properly.
- Welcome the group and thank them for their participation.
- Begin “Engaging Older Members within the Local Club” PowerPoint presentation.



- Utilize the talking points found on the notes pages of the PowerPoint presentation to guide you during the presentation.
- Review the purpose and objectives for this lesson plan.
- Provide a brief introduction of the lesson, including its importance to the 4-H Youth Development Program.
- Proceed with the lecture portion of the lesson.
- Distribute “Engaging Older Members within the Local Club” fact sheet to each participant.
- Conclude the lesson with a time for questions from the participants.

## Methods/Content



**Information found on Slides #1-2.**

## Introduction



*Think for a minute ... Are youth equal partners in your 4-H club? Who really is in charge? Is it you, the officer team, or the entire club? Or is it a shared effort?*

*So, how do we involve older 4-H members in our local 4-H clubs?*

*Let's take a look at the objectives we'll cover in this lesson.*

## Objective 1

Identify characteristics of older youth.



**Information found on Slide #3.**



*Let's first look at some of the characteristics our older 4-H members possess.*

*As members mature, so do their abilities and interests.*

*As you can see, these members are very capable of contributing in significant ways.*

## Characteristics of Youth Age 15-18

- Want adult leadership roles
- Need strong voices in planning their own programs
- Can consider information and come up with new possibilities
- Can initiate and carry out their own tasks without the supervision of others
- Lose patience with meaningless activities



## Objective 2

Define advantages of youth-adult partnerships.



**Information found on Slides #4-5.**



*Let's take advantage of the resources the older youth in our clubs can provide.*

*Generally youth and adult relationships can be thought of in one of three ways. Do you, as an adult leader conduct projects and activities:*

**To youth** - this implies that youth are objects, not part of the actual process.

**For youth** - this implies that youth are helpless, and can't do things for themselves.

**With youth** - this implies that youth see themselves as equals in the partnership.

*Obviously, most of us strive to work **with** youth, but it can be tough. It can take extra time and planning when working with youth as equal partners. You probably will even have to endure some frustrations and setbacks.*

*In the past, adults may have done things **to** youth and **for** youth. Let's commit to doing things **with** youth in the future.*

*Some of the advantages we can realize when we take this approach may include:*

- Youth recruit other youth much more effectively than adults can.
- Young people tend to have fresh perspectives on problems.
- Young people don't think that things have to be done the ways they have always been done in the past.
- Youth have access to information that is difficult for adults to obtain.

## Objective 3

Describe levels of youth participation.



**Information found on Slides #6-10.**





The “Ladder of Youth Participation” illustration (Slide #6) shows how youth and adults sometimes interact. At the top of the ladder is the maximum youth involvement, where youth are viewed as partners. At the bottom of the ladder is minimum youth involvement, where youth are viewed as objects.

*No matter which rung we are on, let’s strive to move up the ladder.*

*The higher up the ladder, the more meaningful is the experience for the youth involved.*

*Let’s start up the ladder at the rung where youth are first involved.*

*This is the first rung where youth are asked for input.*

Youth are consulted and informed.

- Youth are asked what they think and want, but do not really have many choices. Adults still tell youth what their role is, but at least they ask first.

*On the next rung, more input from the youth is requested; however, the ideas are still the adults’.*

Adult-initiated ideas, decisions shared with youth.

- The ideas of several adults are included.
- The adults consult with and share ideas with young people to make it work for both youth and adults.

*This next rung allows youth to have significantly more input.*

Youth-initiated ideas, but decisions shared with adults.

- Youth come up with the idea and initiate adult involvement.
- The two groups work together to share the decision making.

*This is the ultimate youth-adult partnership, where youth direct their own activities and learning.*

Youth-initiated ideas, decisions directed by youth.

- This step is when young people initiate and direct a project or program.
- Adults are involved only in a supportive role.
- This is the most meaningful partnership for youth.

## Objective 4

Share recommendations for successful youth-adult partnerships.



**Information found on Slides #11-12.**

*The focus in this objective is on the adults’ abilities to work with the youth when forming successful youth-adult partnerships.*



Listed below are some dos and don'ts adult should follow for establishing an effective youth-adult partnership.

- Do involve youth in the decision-making that affects their lives.
- Do listen—really listen to youth and be willing to learn from them.
- Do provide youth with information and training they need to succeed.
- Do plan meetings so that everyone feels welcome.
- Don't stereotype youth.
- Don't blame all youth for the actions of one individual youth.

## Objective 5

Identify ways to engage older members.



**Information found on Slides #13 -15.**

## Group Discussion

Do some brainstorming with those leaders present.

Ask them to list some ways they have utilized older members in their clubs in the past.



*It's time to ask the experts! How have you utilized older members in your clubs?*

*Here are some ways that we might be able to use older 4-H members in our clubs. This is just a partial list.*

- Publicize 4-H projects and activities
- Recruit new members
- Advise members in preparing exhibits for County Fair
- Assist in program planning
- Assist leader with Share-the-Fun
- Assistant with special 4-H club event (i.e., community service, fund raising, etc.)
- Help leader with club records

*Included with this lesson is a "4-H Club Meeting Checklist". This checklist can be a good way for you and your 4-H Club members to see how well your club is engaging members in club activities.*



## Conclusion and Quiz



**Information found on Slides #16-17.**



*Providing opportunities for older 4-H members to be actively involved in the operation of the 4-H club can be a very positive experience for them. Not only will they develop skills in a number of areas, but they will also gain a sense of pride and accomplishment as they see their efforts succeed in the club. Thank you for the extra effort you will take to enable the youth in your club to have these experiences!*

Distribute the “Engaging Older Youth” Quiz questions provided as a handout (Answer key is provided as a separate sheet.)

Review the references provided on Slide #17.

Distribute the “Engaging Older Members within the Local Club” fact sheet for volunteers to use for future reference.

Thank the volunteers for their participation.

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## “Engaging Older Members” Quiz

1. One of the characteristics of 15- to 18-year olds is that they need strong voices in planning their own \_\_\_\_\_.
  
2. One of the advantages of working with youth is that they don't do things \_\_\_\_\_.
  
3. In the past, adults have done things to and for youth. However, the most effective strategy is working \_\_\_\_\_.
  
4. One of the dos for successful partnerships is to \_\_\_\_\_—really \_\_\_\_\_ to youth and be willing to learn from them.
  
5. On the “Youth Initiated and Directed” rung of the ladder, adults serve in this capacity: \_\_\_\_\_.



- KEY -

### “Engaging Older Members” Quiz

1. One of the characteristics of 15- to 18-year olds is that they need strong voices in planning their own programs.
2. One of the advantages of working with youth is that they don't do things the way they have always been done in the past.
3. In the past, adults have done things to and for youth. However, the most effective strategy is working with youth.
4. One of the dos for successful partnerships is to listen—really listen to youth and be willing to learn from them.
5. On the “Youth Initiated and Directed” rung of the ladder, adults serve in this capacity: a supportive role.

