

Utilizing Club Committees

Beth Boomershine, Extension Educator, Franklin County 4-H Youth Development
Rachel Stoneburner, Program Coordinator, Franklin County 4-H Youth Development

Used to maintain a sense of belonging and meeting efficiency, committees can be formed to help clubs deconstruct business items through small group conversations. Under the supervision of club leaders and parents, committees work together to support various club activities and provide recommendations for the club to move forward with business items. Committees should be youth directed and supported by adults.

The benefits of using a committee in a 4-H club setting include:

- Reduces long discussion during club business meetings
- Provides an opportunity for youth to learn planning skills
- A sense of belonging and ownership for committee members
- Enhances teamwork by bringing different perspectives and ideas to tasks
- Spreads responsibility out amongst club members



Committee work is an important asset for community clubs as it encourages participation and shortens cumbersome business meetings.

Types of Committees

<p>Short Term Focuses on a specific event or task</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fair Booth - Club Recognition
<p>Standing Year long commitments focusing on more complex tasks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welcome Committee - Community Service - General Club Fundraising
<p>Ad Hoc Formed to complete a specific one-time task that will not be needed again. Can be short or long term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Club 50th anniversary party - Fundraising for club bench at the fairgrounds

Forming Committees

Start with evaluating the committee needs within the 4-H club. Develop a list with a short description of the committee responsibilities and a timeline for committee action items. This list should be presented at the beginning of the year to 4-H club members as they investigate how they would like to be involved in club activities.

There are four different ways to place members on a committee:

Sign-up sheet

Consider presenting a sign-up sheet before or after a meeting with committees listed and numbered spots indicating how many members are needed on each committee.

Committee Interest Survey

Members are presented with a list of committees and then indicate their interest for which committees they would like to serve on.

Appointment

Club leadership team selected adults and youth to be appointed to the committees and presents the committee list to the club for approval.

Recruitment

Club leadership team invites specific members to participate in committee work that is related to their interests and presents it to the club.

