

MATERIALS

1. Power Point slides or posters of:
 - Definition of culture
 - 4-H Colors
 - 4-H Emblem
 - 4-H Pledge
 - Head and its Relationship to Independence
 - Heart and its Relationship to Belonging
 - Hands and its Relationship to Generosity
 - Health and its Relationship to Mastery
 - 4-H Mission
 - 4-H Vision
 - 4-H Motto
 - 4-H Educational Philosophy
2. Copies of Appendix, Lesson 4 handouts if participants are not receiving a copy of the 4-H 101 curriculum

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand the rituals and guidelines that make up the 4-H culture
2. To help participants learn the legal guidelines and responsibilities surrounding use of the 4-H name

TIME

20 minutes

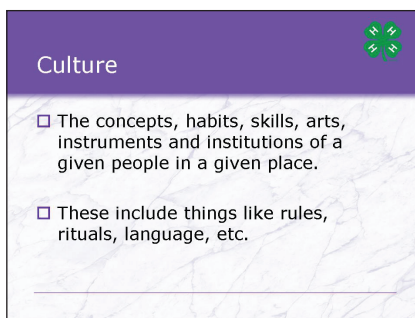
LESSON 4

Understanding the Culture of 4-H

4-H PRKC: Organizational Systems (domain): Knowledge of the Organization (topic)

WHAT TO DO

Show Power Point slide or poster of Definition of Culture.



WHAT TO SAY

Most groups have spoken or unspoken expectations for group members' behaviors that are a part of that group's culture.

The dictionary defines culture as the concepts, habits, skills, arts, instruments and institutions of a given people in a given place. These include things like rules, rituals, language, etc.

Each 4-H club has its own unique "culture," but all 4-H programs follow common practices and guidelines as outlined by the National 4-H Headquarters at USDA.

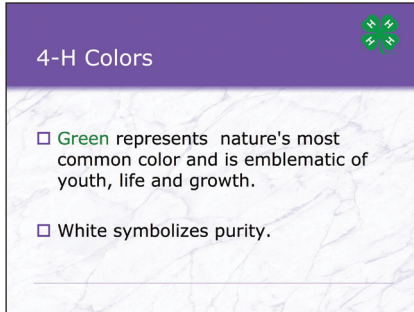
We're going to spend a few minutes looking at these commonly agreed upon 4-H "rituals" as well as the legal guidelines by which 4-H programs must abide.

We learned in Lesson 3 that 4-H is the youth development outreach program of the Cooperative Extension System. It is made up of a community of young people across America learning life skills and supported in this developmental process by caring adult leaders. 4-H members are actively involved in educational projects that are fun and that use quality, research-based curriculum.

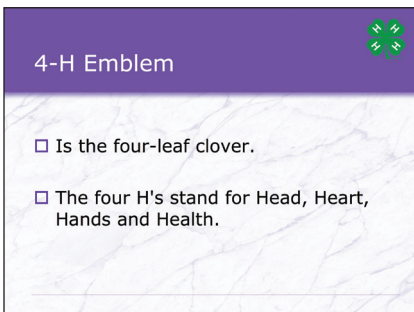
We learned in Lessons 1 and 3 about 4-H's long, rich history. This 100-year history has allowed 4-H the time to develop its own set of rituals and rules that help define its culture. Let's take a look at some of those right now.

WHAT TO DO

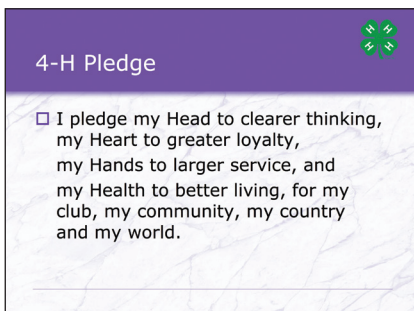
Show Power Point slide or poster of the 4-H Colors.



Show the Power Point slide or poster of the 4-H Emblem.



Show the Power Point slide or poster of the 4-H Pledge.



WHAT TO SAY

Let's start with the 4-H colors, which are green and white. The white symbolizes purity, and the green represents nature's most common color and is emblematic of youth, life and growth.

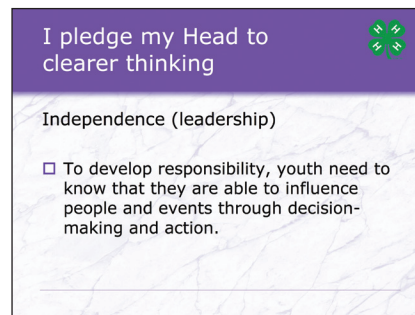
The original symbol of the 4-H Boys' and Girls' Clubs from the early 20th Century was a three-leaf clover with the words Head, Heart and Hands. In 1911, the present 4-H emblem, a four-leaf clover was adopted and the fourth H became Health. The 4-H emblem is federally protected under Section 18 US Code 707 and belongs to the Congress of the United States. If you are a 4-H volunteer, you are permitted to use the 4-H name and emblem once your program is chartered and you have been given permission from your local 4-H agent or Extension Office. We will discuss chartering in more detail in lesson 9. You can learn more about the proper and legal use of the 4-H emblem at the 4-H National Headquarters website or by referring to the handout in your Appendix.

The 4-H pledge tells what 4-H is all about. 4-H has as its goal the development of youth in four areas: Head, Heart, Hands and Health. The pledge was adopted by the delegates to the 1927 National 4-H Club Camp in 1927. State club leaders voted for and adopted the pledge for universal use. The phrase "and my world" was added in 1973. The recitation of the pledge has a prominent place in 4-H activities, club meetings, achievement days and other club events.

WHAT TO DO

Ask participants to stand and introduce the hand movements that accompany the pledge. When you say Head, place hand at forehead; Heart, place hand over heart; Hands, hold hands with palms turned open; Health, leave arms at sides

Show the Power Point slide or poster of Head and its Relationship to Independence.

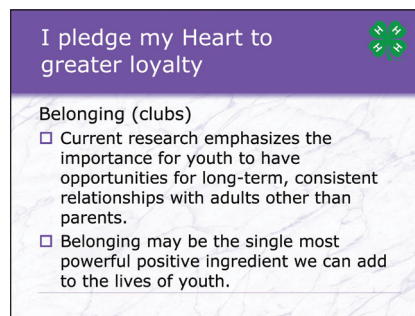


I pledge my Head to clearer thinking

Independence (leadership)

- To develop responsibility, youth need to know that they are able to influence people and events through decision-making and action.

Show the Power Point slide or poster of Heart and its Relationship to Belonging.



I pledge my Heart to greater loyalty

Belonging (clubs)

- Current research emphasizes the importance for youth to have opportunities for long-term, consistent relationships with adults other than parents.
- Belonging may be the single most powerful positive ingredient we can add to the lives of youth.

WHAT TO SAY

It is important to know the 4-H pledge. Let's practice saying it now. There are hand movements that accompany the pledge. I will demonstrate them and would like you to stand and repeat the words and movements with me.

"I pledge my Head to clearer thinking,
my Heart to greater loyalty,
my Hands to larger service,
and my Health to better living,
for my club, my community, my country and my world."


Remember in Lesson 2 we talked about the Essential Elements, which are the hallmarks of an effective youth development program? This slide shows how the H that stands for Head relates to Independence, one of the four Essential Elements.

"I pledge my Head to clearer thinking" corresponds to independence or leadership in youth. By exercising leadership, youth develop responsibility and are able to influence people and events through decision-making and action.

"I pledge my Heart to greater loyalty" corresponds to Belonging, the second Essential Element. Youth need to know they are cared about by others and feel a sense of connection to the group. Belonging may be the single most powerful ingredient we can add to the lives of youth. 4-H gives youth the opportunity to feel physically and emotionally safe while actively participating in a group.

WHAT TO DO


Show the Power Point slide or poster of Hands and its Relationship to Generosity.

I pledge my Hands to larger service 

Generosity (serving the community)

- Youth need to feel their lives have meaning and purpose.
- By participating in 4-H community service and citizenship activities, youth connect to communities and learn to give back to others.

Show the Power Point slide or poster of Health and its Relationship to Mastery.

I pledge my Health to better living 

Mastery (projects)


- To develop self-confidence, youth need to feel and believe they are capable and they must experience success at solving problems and meeting challenges.

Show the Power Point slide or poster of the 4-H Mission.

4-H Mission

- 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

Show the Power Point slide or poster of the 4-H Vision.

4-H Vision 

- A world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change.

WHAT TO SAY

"I pledge my Hands to larger service" corresponds to the third Essential Element, Generosity. Youth need to know their lives have meaning and purpose. By participating in 4-H community service and citizenship activities, youth connect to communities and learn to give back to others.

"I pledge my Health to better living" corresponds to Mastery, the fourth Essential Element. To develop self confidence, youth need to feel and believe they are capable, and they must experience success at solving problems and meeting challenges.

The 4-H Mission: 4-H empowers youth to reach their full potential, working and learning in partnership with caring adults.

The 4-H Vision: A world in which youth and adults learn, grow and work together as catalysts for positive change.

REFERENCES

Kress, C. Essential Elements of Youth Development. Retrieved January 30, 2007 from http://www.national4h-headquarters.gov/library/4h_presents.htm

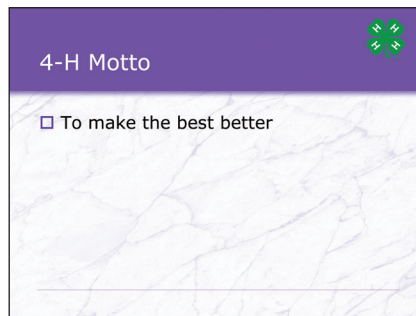
McKinley, S. 2007. Essential Elements of 4-H Youth Development Lesson Plan. Purdue University Cooperative Extension.

4-H Lore. Retrieved January 17, 2007 from http://www.national4h-headquarters.gov/about/4h_lore.htm

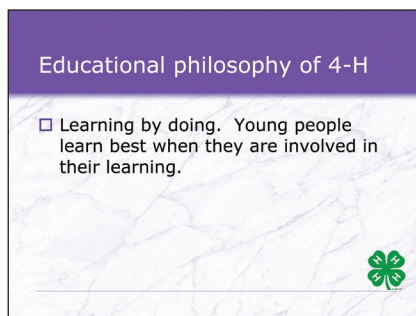
Using the 4-H Name and Emblem. Retrieved January 30, 2007 from http://www.national4h-headquarters.gov/about/emblem/4h_name.htm

WHAT TO DO

Show the Power Point slide or poster of the 4-H Motto.



Show the Power Point slide or poster of the Educational Philosophy of 4-H.



WHAT TO SAY

The 4-H Motto: To Make the Best Better. The motto was adopted at about the same time as the 4-H Club pledge. Its intent is to inspire young people to continue to learn and grow, to make their best efforts better through participating in educational experiences.

"Learning by Doing" sums up the educational philosophy of the 4-H program. Young people learn best when they are involved in their learning. We will talk more in upcoming lessons about how "learning by doing" is applied to all 4-H activities.