Getting Into It...Tips on Managing 4-H Programs

"Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence" Application Process

Developed 2005

The overall goal of 4-H clubs is to develop enthusiastic young people who boldly take action to demonstrate life skills as capable, caring, confident, competent kids of character thus contributing to the improvement of themselves, their family, their club, their community, and their world. One way clubs might choose to measure their success in meeting that goal is their ability to gain status as a Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence. To receive the designation as a Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence, clubs must meet a certain set of criteria and document how this criteria was met. Clubs meeting the requirements will initially receive a certificate. In subsequent years clubs successfully meeting the requirements will receive a special insignia to place on their certificate. Clubs must apply annually to receive this designation.

Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence applications will be due to the County Extension office on September 15, or earlier as designated by the county. The application form is available from the County Extension office or may be downloaded from the state 4-H web site at 4h.unl.edu. Application information will be based on the official 4-H year for federal reporting of enrollment which is October 1 through September 30. In order to document the impact of 4-H work at the club level, county offices are asked to provide copies of the Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence Applications to their district based 4-H Specialist/Coordinator by October 15 each year.

Club certificates and or insignias could be presented to clubs who meet the requirements during county achievement nights, or other appropriate times as selected by the county 4-H Council.

Questions about the Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence Program:

Q: What are the requirements for a Club?

In order to be certified, the club must apply annually and document that they have met all of the following requirements: (The application form is available on the 4-H web site.)

- Have at least five members from at least two different families
- Recite the 4-H Pledge at meetings
- Meet at least six times per year
- Choose/elect youth officers
- Give youth leadership roles
- Have one club project (related to curriculum) which they do together
- Have adult role models/ (parental) involvement
- Are facilitated by a volunteer/organizational leader who has successfully completed the Volunteer Profile
- Have members who perform a demonstration or public speaking at the club level or above
- Complete one community service project
- Have members who participate in a county, district or state event(s)
- Celebrate member and club achievement

Q: How do we get the Certificates and/or Seals?

A: Counties can order certificates and gold seals by calling the State 4-H Office at 402-472-2805 or by e-mailing Kathleen Lodl at klodl@unl.edu. Orders should be place at least one week prior to the recognition event.

Q: What about clubs who meet the requirements more than one year?

A: The first year the club meets the requirements, they get a certificate. In subsequent years, they would get a gold seal.

Q: What if a club doesn't want to be a Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence?

R: Not a problem. Any organized group of youth can be an Authorized 4-H Club. This means the 4-H club, can use the name emblem and that they abide by the EPO (Equal Programming Opportunities) statements. (See: "The 4-H Name and Emblem, Guidelines for Authorized Use," revised 1999.)

Q: What if I don't want to start the Nebraska 4-H Club of Excellence process till next year?

A: Again, not a problem. You can begin the process whenever you would like.