

# Join... The 4-H Team

Focus On  
Learning...  
Not Just  
Winning

Help  
4-Hers "see"  
how 4-H skills  
last a lifetime

Connect  
project work  
with meaningful  
community  
service.

Tri-County 4-H Training  
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# Winning Tips For Project Leaders

1. Begin the 4-H year by scheduling regular project meetings. When you are seven, it's a lifetime to wait until summer to meet for the first time.
2. Use meeting # 1 to organize for the year. Visit with 4-Hers about what they want to learn. Help them set goals. Collect ideas and recruit helpers.
3. Great project meetings follow the "Learning By Doing" model. Kids who are involved in using their hands and minds will eagerly return for the next meeting. While there are no stop watches at most project meetings, 45 minutes to an hour is often enough time to teach a skill.
4. Involve every member. A winning game plan will give each 4-Her at least six chances to share and contribute at each meeting.
5. Have fun. Have fun. Have fun. Have fun. Have fun. Have fun.
6. Don't be afraid to ask for help. Involve parents. Ask teen 4-Hers to be junior leaders. Involve the community. Have calling trees. Share the load and avoid burn out. Seek resources from your county extension agents and other 4-H volunteers.
7. Research (talking to past 4-Hers) shows that projects that meet 5 to 7 times during the year allow them to develop skills. It's the practice needed for the big game-County Fair. Plan one meeting to evaluate what the 4-Hers learned in the project during the year. Yes, we know that you are already busy but remember you are the 4-H All-Star Team Project Leader Coach with a dream to make the best, better!
8. Plan age appropriate activities. Seven year olds and seventeen year old 4-Hers have different needs. To make your job easier, you may want to divide the group into smaller groups by age.
9. Your job is to teach skills; the 4-Hers' job is assume responsibility to apply the skills learned to complete a fair exhibit.
10. When it comes to rules, be honest. Set an example with your leadership. Sometimes telling a 4-Her "no" is the best gift that you will ever give them. Challenge 4-Hers to master new skills every year.
11. The 4-H way of doing project work can include many correct methods. Remind 4-Hers that a white ribbon evaluation simply means that they need continue working to improve their project skills.

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