

Checking the Action Plan for Essential Elements of 4-H Programming



The following are items to look for in evaluating club action plans for the four essential elements of a 4-H Club. Items are listed as a guide. Clubs do not have to include all items in order to meet the chartering guideline of “Meets Essential Elements of a 4-H Club” Agents should review the National 4-H Headquarters/USDA guidelines for Essential Elements in 4-H Clubs prior to reviewing action plans.

Belonging...Action plan includes

- All youth involved---committees, opportunity to volunteer for a variety of roles
- Youth in leadership roles—offices, committees, leading groups, mentoring
- Interaction of a variety of adults—not just key leaders
- Roles for other volunteers
- Roles for all kinds of 4-H’ers at all involvement levels

Mastery....Action plan includes

- Evidence of Experiential Learning process—youth are doing, sharing what is done, applying it to new situations, reflecting on the project
- Opportunities for 4-H’ers to practice new skills—not just listening but doing
- Opportunities to demonstrate levels of competence with skills—not all competitive
- Opportunities for youth to teach skills to others
- Evidence that youth are involved in planning and implementing the activities
- Recognition for completion of projects and/or activities—success not based only on winning a contest
- Variety of recognition
- Opportunity for positive self evaluation of projects and activities

Independence...Action plan includes

- Youth planning activities & projects
- Youth in mentoring roles
- Youth in a variety of leadership roles
- All youth involved in roles in the club
- Youth planning individual activities and group activities

Generosity...Action plan includes

- Service projects—planned and implemented by 4-H’ers
- Mentoring by peers---opportunities for 4-H’ers to work together and help each other for success
- Activities include group activities with success based on group not individual success
- Opportunity to practice appreciation—thank you notes, recognition of others work