



4-H Quick Tips - Summer Programs

SUMMER PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

- To offer fun educational summer alternatives for youth
- To recruit new members and spark interest throughout the summer
- To offer leadership opportunities for volunteers, senior and/or junior 4-H'ers
- To build 4-H record books or portfolios
- To identify potential DPA participants
- To promote the overall 4-H program and increase 4-H visibility
- To encourage 4-H'ers to remain active members

PLANNING:

- Decide who should be involved in the planning process: 4-H Advisory committee, 4-H staff, volunteers, teen leaders, 4-H'ers at each age level, collegiate 4-H'ers, parents, teachers, etc.
- Decide who will be in charge: 4-H staff member, volunteer, etc.
- Volunteers can serve as program coordinator, instructors, and chaperons

WHEN SHOULD PLANNING BEGIN

- It's never too early. Come up with a time-line for the entire program - from planning to program completion - and follow it.

POSSIBLE STEPS TO A GOOD PROGRAM:

- Select a catchy, current, upbeat theme that will attract kids, or select a specific summer program theme to use every year.
- Plan a variety of activities: classes, workshops, tours, field trips, recreational activities, etc. Offer activities of interest to boys and girls of all age groups
- Offer a combination of recreational and educational activities
- Design and promote your program so that it sounds exciting and fun! Stick to your theme.
- Plan in-county as well as out-of-county events
- Plan cluster summer events
- Plan classes that tie in to year-round activities such as demonstration and portfolio workshops or county /area contests that tie in with fairs, projects, judging teams, etc.
- Utilize volunteers, even those who can only make a short term commitment to the program
- Make programs fun, exciting, and activity oriented

BUDGETS:

- You should plan for each activity to be self supporting. Money taken in should equal money spent.
- Plan to consider all costs when determining activity fee.
- Some costs include: class materials, bus driver, transportation, other bus fees, parking fees, snacks, insurance, admission fees, supplies, leader cost, printing, tickets to attractions
- All fees should be collected in advance

IDEAS:

- You can include special promotional materials in the summer program cost such as t-shirts, bandanas, name badges, etc.
- Have one promotion for the entire summer program. Do not develop a flyer for every activity.
- Have one registration form for all summer activities (excluding camp). Make certain that the registration process and dates are stated clearly!
- Promote summer programs at a spring club meeting. You can usually promote the month after camp promotion. This helps to separate camp from your summer program and reduce confusion. Camp should be promoted as part of summer programs but should not get lost in the numerous activities offered.
- Keep a waiting list for popular classes. Some very popular classes may be conducted more than once.
- Hold an orientation for all instructors and chaperons before the program begins.
- Conduct an orientation for all summer program participants and parents if needed
- Design a system for having someone contact 4-H'ers who have signed up for classes to remind them to attend. (Letter, phone call, online service, etc.)

MORE IDEAS:

- Start small and build yearly.
- Some counties offer one day opportunities throughout the summer. Some counties offer a week long day camps. An occasional overnight trip is also popular.
- Look around your community for special people and activities. Florist may give 4-H'ers a chance to make an arrangement or a Ceramic shop or wood craft store might give a class. A restaurant owner might give a tour and parents with special talents might do a workshop.
- Contact local merchants and put together a kit which includes items such as free movie rental coupons and

- goodies donated by local merchants
- Many counties combine education with fun. Example: A workshop or class before a trip or tour
- Summer classes can be used as a time to train judging teams
- Determine number of activities to be offered by considering: date school is out for summer and date classes resume; Summer camp dates; date of local events and festivals.
- Consider sponsors for a child who couldn't afford a specific activity. Make sure 4-H'er writes a thank you.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, TOURS

Remember you are only limited by your imagination and resources!

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Target Sports SAFE workshops
 Fishing Rodeo
 Baby sitting
 Bike Hike
 Public Speaking
 How to do a Science Project that can also be a 4-H demonstration
 Line Dancing or other type of dancing
 Calligraphy
 Model Rocketry
 Jelly/Jam Making or Bread Baking
 Christmas Ornaments / Crafts
 Movies and pizza lock-in
 First-Aid / CPR Training
 Photography / Video Workshop
 Woodworking
 Homemade Ice Cream Contest / Social
 Pizza Making Class
 Picnic Pointers Class or Outdoor Cookery Class
 Decorated T-shirts
 Workshop to make gifts for nursing home patients
 Planning A Party / Planning Special 4-H Events

TOURS:

Night Crawlers - Overnight Trip to Zoo Atlanta
 Huntsville Space Center - "Missions In Space"
 4-H Night at Braves Game or 4-H Day at Six Flags
 Callaway Gardens
 Lake Lanier Islands
 Planetarium
 Fernbank Science Center and Museum
 River rafting or tubing trip
 Overnight camp-out
 Water Park or Swimming activity
 Roller Skating all night or ice skating trip
 Midnight cosmic bowling
 Stone Mountain Park
 Any Georgia State Park
 Tour of local industry / business / agriculture
 Fox Theater / afternoon matinee

Radio / Television Stations
 Waterworks / Power Plants / Solar Centers
 Visit 911 Center
 Veterinarians Office / Veterinary School
 World of Coca-Cola / Atlanta Aquarium
 Plains / Warm Springs
 Zoo / Cyclorama
 Local colleges and universities
 Newspaper
 Museums

OTHER:

Family fun day with parent/child activities. Olympic-type fun games at a city park
 Cluster softball game - mini-tournament & cookout
 Water Quality Day or Recycling Day
 Night Hike
 Adopt-A-Mile Clean Up / Cookout
 Community Service / Beautification Projects
 Have 4-H'ers teach summer workshops at day cares
 Have 4-H'ers visit nursing homes
 Have 4-H'ers volunteer / work at community events
 Hold a 4-H Summer Fun Carnival as a fund-raiser

Remember: IF YOU HAVE FUN, THE KIDS WILL TOO!

"4-H Quick Tips" Leaflet Five
 Revised August 2008

"4-H Quick Tips" is a University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Publication.

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For additional 4-H Summer Program Information, refer to 4-H Publication RBO1 - Super Summer 4-H Programs by Cheryl Varnadoe and Jenny Jordan, Extension 4-H Faculty.

Special thanks to Jenny Jordan, Kathy Wages, Upson Co. Volunteers, and Forsyth Co. Volunteers for their contributions to this publication.