

How can your CLUB OFFICER TEAM help 4-H club families feel welcome, valued, and a sense of belonging?

Here are some ideas. What else can you think of?

- Be enthusiastic about 4-H and being part of the leadership! You were elected. Help to make your fellow members feel like they chose the right people for this year's team.
- Be friendly! Smile and say hi to everyone at your meeting; not just your friends! As an officer, you are in a public role! If the President of the U.S. was choosy about whom he smiled and said "hi" to, imagine the raucous it would cause.
- Call members by their first names whenever possible. This sends the message that you care enough about them to learn who they are. Even if you goof up sometimes, they will know you are trying.
- Check-in with new families at every meeting. Consider assigning an officer or older member/family to each new member/new family as a "buddy."
- Explain agenda items completely! Provide enough information so that someone who has never attended a meeting or 4-H activity before can understand.
- Communicate your ideas with your leaders, and help them act upon them.
- Follow-through on things you promise to do. If you don't, you'll lose the respect and trust of your fellow members and the adults that support your club. Once gone, respect and trust are hard to get back.
- Consider your body language. Actions (or the lack of action) speak louder than words.





- Make sure that you get feedback from everyone, not just a handful of “talkers.” If shy kids won’t speak, give them simple surveys from time to time to get their feedback. Many of our most out-going teen members were shy younger members. They stuck with the program because someone did their best to make them feel valued until they were more comfortable.
- Keep the meetings moving! Help your fellow officers identify times when discussion as a group needs to be tabled and sent to a committee for more in-depth consideration. LONG BUSINESS MEETINGS are rarely interesting to members. One of the biggest complaints about club meetings is that they are LONG and BORING!
- Make sure your club is providing activities that everyone ENJOYS. Regularly mix things up with quick games, jokes, crazy songs, cheers/chants, Cloverbud activities, etc. Not everyone will like everything, but your goal as a team should be for everyone to like enough things about your meetings to stay “hooked” by the club.

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