



Creative Ideas to Add Zest to 4-H Club Meetings

Adapted from Kansas 4-H

DRESS SILLY DAY:

One meeting could be jazzed up by a dress theme. Members can create costumes from their clothing at home. You can have a mismatched day, green day, hat day, pajamas day, crazy shoe day, tie day, sunglasses day, backwards clothing day and dress as your parents day. These are just some examples. Have the club help you create more, or add more yourself.

CANDY THROWING FOR PARTICIPATION:

This works best when the officers or leaders take charge. When members make a motion, give discussion or ask a question, they can be tossed a piece of candy. This might just increase club participation!

BACKWARDS MEETING:

Start the meeting with the motion for adjournment and go from there! The entire meeting is backwards. Members and parents might even want to dress backwards. Talk about really learning the meeting order, this will do it!

SITTING IN A CIRCLE:

Meetings commonly occur when members are seated in rows facing the officers' table. Have members sit in a circle with the officers in the center. Changing the outlook might just change participation. New changes in seating arrangements can be tried at each meeting.

MOVE TO A NEW SEAT DURING THE MEETING:

This is another seating adventure. The President could give the command. "Move two seats to your left." "Rows one and two switch seats." "End seats switch with each other." The command can be different each time. The club members will definitely be paying attention to the meeting to hear where they need to move next.

HAVE GUEST SPEAKERS:

Invite people to come visit your club. These folks might have some neat information or activities to share with you. Some ideas of people to contact include: Fire Department, Police Department, Hospital, Wildlife and Parks Department or Newspaper.

VISIT A NEW PLACE:

Club field trips are an excellent way to see what is in your community. The club can have a short meeting or incorporate the new location into the meeting. Don't forget to take the camera to document all of the club adventures!

HAVE A SECRET WORD CONTEST:

When the Secretary reads the minutes of the previous meeting, a secret word can be inserted. Members will listen closely to determine what the word is. Members who then use the word in some way during the meeting can receive a prize from the "junk tote." Secret word examples include: popsicle, pillow, jelly bean, clover, and armadillo.

MEETING THEMES:

This would relate to the dress-up idea. Members might want to dress-up and have a beach party theme, sledding theme, holiday theme or fifties theme. In the theme idea, the meeting location would be decorated and treats and recreation would relate to the theme.

PARENTS' MEETING:

Let your parents do the work in this meeting! Parents will hold the offices, do the project talks, conduct recreation and more. This is sure to create some laughs!

DRAW YOUR MEETING OUT OF A HAT:

Cut up the order of the club meeting. Place the slips of paper in a hat. Draw out a slip of paper. That is the first item of the meeting. Continue until every item has been drawn out of the hat. This should make for a most interesting meeting!

TRIVIA CONTEST:

Use Junior Trivial Pursuit or Brain Quest or create your own trivia. The President will announce when a trivia question will be asked. Several members can be appointed to ask questions prior to the meeting. When a member answers a question correctly, throw a piece of candy or "junk tote" item. You just never know what you might learn next!

