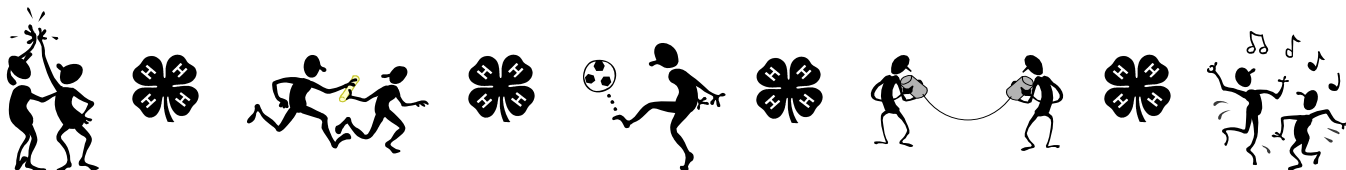




Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections



Summer 2004 Issue

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers working with grades K - 2

Lead the Way, Be the Way

One of the most important functions of the 4-H program is for youth to experience a caring adult in a caring environment. Cloverbud volunteers lead the way for 5-8 year olds by building a good foundation for youth to make connections. Connections made among Cloverbuds and the 4-H volunteers have a tremendous impact on attitude, behavior, and socialization. In some instances a Cloverbud group is a surrogate family that provides a safe environment to explore new feelings, activities, and choices. The connectedness and safety experienced within a Cloverbud Program encourages kids to be daring and try new challenges. There are several ways volunteers can lead the way for youth and reinforce the connections kids make with each other and the group.

- Use group consensus decision-making. Kids that participate in decisions have ownership and will more readily support the group activity.
- Smile and use names. A smile is a non-verbal cue that displays your pleasure in seeing the child again. Using an individual's name is a type of recognition and confirms membership in the group.
- Make birthday cards – Have the kids make each other cards to recognize each other's birthdays or other special occasions.
- Clearly express behavior expectations.
- Frequently talk to kids about school and their activities.

*Jill Stechschulte
Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development
Ohio State University Extension, Fulton County, Ohio*



Olympic Craft Idea

Make torches out of paper towel rolls and tissue paper, medals from juice can lids, and cut Olympic rings out of paper plates and color them.
Go USA!





Winter in July



It may be hot and humid in the USA, but “down under” it’s wintertime! In Australia and New Zealand and the rest of the Southern Hemisphere temperatures are chilly and blustery.

Try these activities and ideas at your Cloverbud meeting or camp:

- *Read a winter story.
- *Sing winter songs (Frosty the Snowman, Jingle Bells)
- *Have a snowball fight with bunched up newspaper. Divide group into teams and have at it!
- *Play “toss the ice cube”. Choose a partner. Stand at least three feet apart. When the whistle blows toss the ice cube back and forth. If the ice cube drops, your team is out. Continue playing until the ice melts or there is only one team left.
- *Children sit in a circle and pass the ice cube behind their backs while winter music plays. When the music stops the person holding the ice cube is out.
- *Over and under with an ice cube.
- *Ice cube/spoon relay. Play until ice melts.
- *Enjoy hot cocoa in the winter? Use chocolate milk over ice.
- *Build edible marshmallow snowmen. Use cake coloring paint for facial features or candy pieces with icing as glue. Pieces of fruit roll ups could be scarves and hats. For arms use toothpicks or stick pretzels.
- *Make no sew fleece scarves. Cut fleece in lengths of 36 inches by 8 inches. Let children cut the fringed ends. Place masking tape as a guide for cutting even length fringe.
- *Snow scenes in jars would be another winter theme craft.

*Barb Airgood
Program Assistant, 4-H Youth Development
Ohio State University Extension, Tuscarawas County, Ohio*

Cloverbuds at the Fair

Have you ever wanted to adapt an existing curriculum for a new purpose and audience? Recently, OSU Extension staff partnered with senior and junior fair board members to hold a series of demonstrations/activities throughout the week of fair to provide “hands-on learning opportunities” for different audiences. The senior fair board provided the needed space and the junior fair board publicized the events with posters and public address announcements at the fair as well as recruited presenters. OSU Extension staff taught many of the demonstrations on a variety of topics.

I taught (along with 4-H volunteers) a 2-hour session for children (ages 5-8) using selected activities from the Cloverbud 1 and 2 Series (GPM 710 and 711). We provided materials and instruction for 6 different activities and invited parents to participate as well with their children. Funding for supplies came from our 4-H Advisory Committee Treasury. We had 20 children in our group. Ten were not in 4-H and the others were existing Cloverbud members. Hands down, the most popular activity was from the Fitness is Fun foldout in Series 1 called “baton with streamers.” The children loved making them and proudly waving them across the fairgrounds. They even used them to cheer for their favorite competitors at various livestock shows. This was also a great way to recruit new members. I am happy to say that 3 of the 10 non 4-Her’s are now enrolled as a direct result of participating in this activity.

We plan to do this again at this year’s fair using different activities. For more information feel free to contact me at: Werner.48@osu.edu.

*Ed Werner
Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development*

Be an Apple Taste Tester!

Today, Ohio farmers produce about 2 million bushels of apples each year. We enjoy apples in many ways such as fresh, pies, cakes, juices, jellies, applesauce and apple butter. But, not all apples taste alike!

Goal: To enable Cloverbuds to taste different kinds of apples.

Supplies: At least 6 different kinds of apples, Paper plates, Pencils

In Advance: Wash each apple. Slice into small slices so each child has one slice of each apple. Keep all the slices of one apple together. Assign each apple a number, 1,3,5,7,9,11. If more than 6 kinds of apples are used, assign numbers accordingly.



Make a chart to record the Cloverbud's remarks.

Apple # & Name	Describing Words	Like the Taste?	Dislike the Taste?
#1 Jonathon	Sour, crunchy, juicy	Use slash marks	Use slash marks

Directions:

- ◆ Give each child a paper plate and pencil. Each should number their plate like the face of a clock.
- ◆ Give each child a slice of each apple. Instruct them to put the slice at the corresponding number of their plate. So apple #1 will be at the "1" of the plate.
- ◆ Ask the children to taste each slice one at a time. Help them describe the taste. Is it sweet? Sour? Juicy? Dry? Soft? Crunchy? Mushy? Crisp? How many like the taste? How many dislike the taste?
- ◆ Then have them taste the next apple. Repeat the brief activity for each apple slice.
- ◆ After all apples have been tasted, tally up the likes and dislikes to learn which apples are preferred.

Tart varieties are McIntosh, Jonathon, Empire, Ida Red, Granny Smith, Braeburn.
Sweeter varieties include Red Delicious, Winesap, Fuji, Gala, Jonagold, and Golden Delicious.

In summary, all apples have similarities. But they can taste very different!

*Vicki Schwartz
District Specialist, 4-H Youth Development
Ohio State University Extension*

Ideas for Cloverbud Leaders

- Teach responsibility by encouraging Cloverbuds to care for their personal belongings and to clean up after themselves.
- Plan art activities that involve cutting with scissors, tracing, pasting, gluing, coloring—both free form (make anything you want) and more directed (make a greeting card)—and other quite table activities like putting jigsaw or 3-D puzzles together to encourage fine motor and cognitive development.
- Play games that involve following directions, repeating sounds or making up rhymes to help develop listening skills.
- Help label feelings and strong emotions by giving the words to use when none are there, like "I can see that you are *frustrated* with this game, *angry* at your friend."
- Ask "What if" questions like, "What if Jack had planted a magic corn seed?" or "What if dogs could talk?"
- Encourage a sense of accomplishment by planning activities in which all club members can be successful.
- Give specific praise like, "I like the way you told that story, good job!" rather than, "You did a good job" to help develop an *I can do it!* spirit.

*Adapted by: Kirk Bloir, M.S.
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Campus Connections

Here are three great new learning activities that you may want to use with your 4-H Cloverbud members.

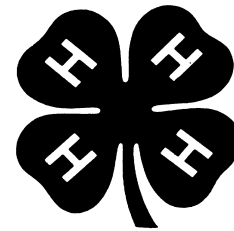
- ⇒ American Electronic Power (AEP) has put together leader-directed learning material to help keep children safe around electricity. It is called, "Louie the Lightning Bug Safety Kit" for children in K – 2. The material is free for teachers or youth leaders (that's you) by requesting the safety kit from their web site at www.aep.com/go/education or write to AEP Community Relations, 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215. Be sure to request grade level K – 2.
- ⇒ If you live near a Home Depot, another 4-H Cloverbud activity/field trip to consider are their "Kids Workshops." The "Kids Workshops" are free, hands-on activities the first Saturday of every month (usually starts at 9:00 am) at all Home Depot stores. They can handle many children at once so making reservations in advance are not required. Check out their website, www.homedepot.com, to locate the nearest store and look in the "Services" window for "Kids Workshop" to get more information. Each child receives a kid-sized orange apron and an achievers pin. Some of the activities include making sailboats, birdhouses, banks, and treasure boxes.
- ⇒ Lastly, the Ohio Soybean Council has developed some wonderful leader-directed material related to soybeans, "Meet the Bean!" and "Bean Team." 4-H Cloverbud children will gain knowledge about soybeans and enhance life skills such as "getting along with others" through cooperative learning and "making decisions" as they engage in the activities. They have asked that all volunteers or 4-H professionals send me their name and address if interested in the material. I will forward that information to them so they can send the curriculum pieces to you directly. If you would like the material let me know by e-mail (scheer.9@osu.edu), phone (614-292-6758), or mail to 2120 Fyffe Road, Rm. 204A, Columbus, OH 43210 by August 15, 2004.

*Scott D. Scheer
State Extension Specialist,
4-H Youth Development, Preadolescent Education
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Veggies & Dip

Recent research shows that fruit and vegetable consumption is declining. Only 1 in 5 Americans meet the 5-A-Day minimum requirement for fruits and vegetables. Since fresh fruits and vegetables are plentiful during the summer – take advantage of the opportunity to encourage your Cloverbuds to eat more of them. Because fresh vegetables have a milder flavor than cooked, many children prefer to eat them that way.

Show your Cloverbuds how to clean and cut produce for a fruit or vegetable tray. Allow them to help as appropriate. Serve with a favorite dip.



Ohio State University Extension

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