



4-H Club Meetings

Almost every 4-H club holds **regular** club meetings. Even within the same club, no two club meetings are the same. Ideally, every meeting should have three parts - **recreation**, **business**, and **education**. Youth leadership plays a huge role in the success of a club.

Most clubs have youth officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and other selected roles) who are responsible for running each of the meetings. Youth leaders not only gain excellent life skills, they help to keep the meeting relevant and fun for members of all ages. All youth have a responsibility to contribute to their clubs through their voice and their actions!

What is **my role** as an adult?

Adults play an important part in creating a positive atmosphere for all 4-H members. While at a meeting, it's important to be a positive role model for everyone in attendance. Adults play a huge factor in empowering and encouraging youth.



Image courtesy North Dakota State University Extension

Make this a **positive experience**.

1. Actively listen to all 4-H members.
2. Let youth run the meeting. It's their club!
3. Attend as many meetings as possible.
4. Ask your club leader how you can contribute.
5. If you have a hobby or skill, consider offering to be a guest speaker!

Should I **stay** or should I **go**?

It's strongly recommended that families attend 4-H meetings together. Club meetings provide great opportunities to learn with other club members, but the learning doesn't stop there. By attending the meeting, you can reflect on the meeting together and continue the education at home.

Parliamentary Procedure answer key (see member edition):

1. Motion | 2. Second | 3. Discuss | 4. Re-state the motion | 5. Vote



Get To Know Your Club

All 4-H clubs have adult leaders and youth decision makers. Most clubs have youth officers, like a president or a treasurer. Fill in the name and role your club leaders, and then ask them a question. Try to meet a new club member that you don't know yet, too!

| Role | Name | Question | Answer |
|------------------------|------|---|--------|
| Adult Leader | | How long have you been the club leader? | |
| Youth President/Leader | | What's the best part of being a club officer? | |
| | | How many years have you been in 4-H? | |
| | | What's your favorite hobby outside of 4-H? | |
| | | What's your favorite part of 4-H? | |
| | | What's the most challenging part of being a youth leader? | |

How is the meeting run?

Most 4-H clubs use **parliamentary procedure** to make club decisions. See if you can put the 5 steps of this procedure in order. Each step is written in **bold**. The answers are found at the bottom of the adult edition.

Re-state the Motion – The president re-states the motion before the group votes.

1. _____

Discussion – The motion is discussed by all members. Members might want to bring up good or bad things about the motion, or maybe find some ways that it needs to be changed.

2. _____

Motion – A motion is a request that something can be done. Only one motion should be placed before the group at one time. A motion can be discussed and changed.

3. _____

Vote – The group votes to decide if they will pass or deny the motion. Voting can usually happens by voice. Members say “aye” if they agree, and “nay” if they disagree. Voting sometimes happens in other ways (secret ballot, show of hands).

4. _____

Second – If someone agrees with the motion, they can “second” the motion which means it can be discussed by all members.

5. _____

Adapted from Quick and Easy Guide to Parliamentary Procedure, Wisconsin 4-H Southern District Leadership Team, 2001