

## Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program

# Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Instilling and developing leadership capabilities in youth and adults.

**AGE LEVEL** – Intermediate, Advanced

**CONCEPT OR SKILL** – (Int.)

Opportunities to develop skills at developmental level of 12-14 year old. (Adv.) Civic Involvement/Youth Governance – Identify needs of the community, environment, organization or individual. Take action for improving social needs by utilize the laws and the democratic process.

**LIFE SKILL(S)** – (Int.) **Head** – Resiliency, **Hands** – Marketable Skills, **Health** – Healthy Lifestyle Choices

**Heart** – Social Skills

(Adv.) **Heart** – Concern for Others, Empathy, **Hands** – Community Service Volunteering, Contribution to Group Effort, **Head** – Wise Use of Resources, Service Learning, Resiliency, Problem Solving

**BEHAVIORAL INDICATOR** – (Int.)

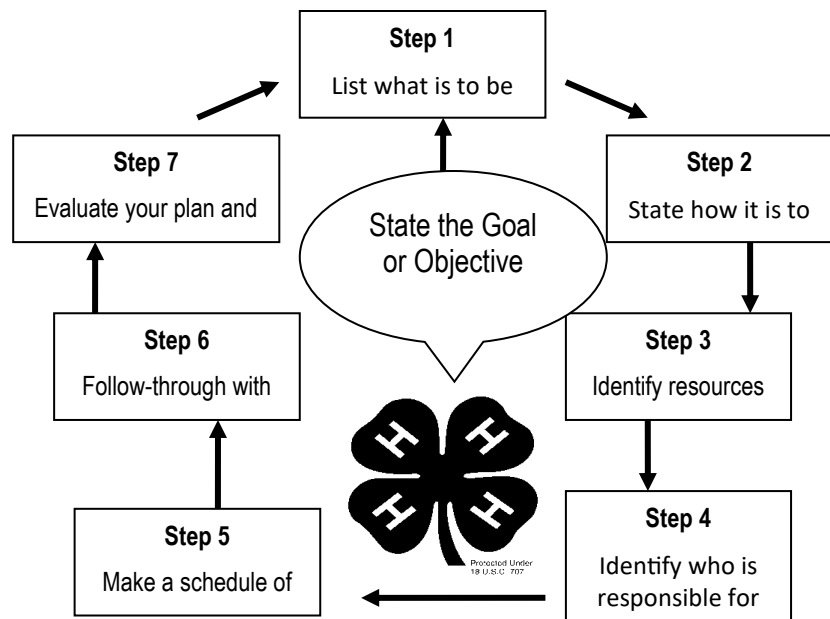
Youth want to feel wanted and enjoy opportunities to show their skills in a group where they feel at ease. (Adv.) Developing community consciousness. Enjoy discussions and debates on social and economic problems.

## ACTIVITY 10: “Seeking Shelter”

### THINGS TO KNOW:

The solution too many real life challenges are often limited by the methods and materials available or used. It is essential for youth to learn flexibility so that when presented with a challenge they can approach it with the confidence to be creative in order to find the best solution possible. Youth at the intermediate and especially the advanced levels are beginning to be able to use abstract thinking and theories and are excited when challenges and solutions are not simply “black and white.” Youth who learn flexibility will do well academically, emotionally and professionally, for they will be resilient when faced with difficult circumstances.

4-H members should be actively involved in all program planning. Young people have a greater commitment to the program/project if they have been contributing members of the planning team. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to read the Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer Development Series #856 “Planning” in preparation for this activity. The following is a brief excerpt from the material.



Planning is a process that involves advanced thought, preparation, and commitment to a project or idea. The planning process includes deciding what is to be done, thinking through how it is to be done, identifying resources needed, identifying who is responsible and providing a schedule of completion times. Placing a plan in writing makes a formalized commitment to that plan.

Planning provides a systematic process for achieving one's goal from beginning to end. In planning, an individual works backwards from their goal by deciding what needs to be done to reach that goal by a designated time in the future.

Planning provides a way to track one's progress, prepare for possible setbacks or alternatives, and also provides a means for evaluating and redirecting time, talents, and resources in an efficient manner.

People who resist planning because they believe it takes time, involves too much thought and paperwork is too restrictive to their creativity or it makes them too accountable, waste more time and energy simply because of their lack of planning. In the end planning saves time, energy and resources. A complete set of 4-H Plans will include the following:

1. List what is to be done.
2. How it is to be done.
3. Identifies resources needed.
4. Identifies who is responsible.
5. Provides a schedule of completion times.
6. Follow-through with the plans.
7. Opportunity for evaluation.



**Materials Needed:** Can be varied: clothespins, rubber bands, trash bags, paper clips, 100 feet of inexpensive rope etc. Group processing will require flip Charts/newsprint and markers or paper and pencil

**Do:** Divide the group into teams. Explain that they have been shipwrecked on a deserted island during the rainy season and they only have a short time to build a shelter before night falls. Give each group a bag of supplies that you have gathered from the wreckage. You can either give each group the same materials or vary supplies slightly. If the materials are varied and the group is advanced, you have the option of allowing teams to work out a trade or barter system for items that they feel are needed. After giving the groups about 30 minutes to build a shelter, have the entire group take a tour of each shelter. Shelter requirements: door, roof, and sleeping area big enough for all members of the team.

**Reflect:** 1) Have each group member list pro's and con's to the experience (their personal perspective)? 2) Have each individual briefly list things they think would have made the experience more successful. 3) Let the group share and combine their perspective for a single group report. 4) Ask the group to answer the following questions. If the materials were varied and teams were not allowed to trade items, how did they feel when they saw something they needed and could not have? Did they have to rethink their shelter structure? How did they modify their plans? If the groups were allowed to trade/barter how did they form their bartering system? Did it always get them what they wanted? 5) What are the similarities and differences in each group's experience? Why do you think these similarities and differences exist?

**Apply:** 1) How important do you think resources (physical, financial and mental) are in the planning of an activity or event? 2) Have each group organize the following steps in a logical sequence for accomplishing a task and justify the placement of each step: A) Develop plan. B) Consider resources needed. C) Establishing a purpose/goal(s) D). Evaluate progress. E) Schedule for project F) Consider alternatives G) Evaluate Results/Impact (Helpful Resource: Oklahoma 4-H Volunteer Development Series #856 "Planning") When and where will this organizational process be helpful to you as an individual or as a member of a team? 3) When presented with a problem to solve do all people have the same resources at their disposal? 4) What are some social situations people deal with in our town or society (homeless, hunger, transportation, etc.) 5) Are there ways to assist these people? Does the assistance help them on a one time basis, train them to help themselves and maintain their personal dignity, etc.

Source: Hogwood, Rachel. Program Director, New London County 4-H Camp, Connecticut.

Resource: 22 Leadership Principles, by Rulon D. Skinner, 1992, Horizon Publishers & Distributors Inc.