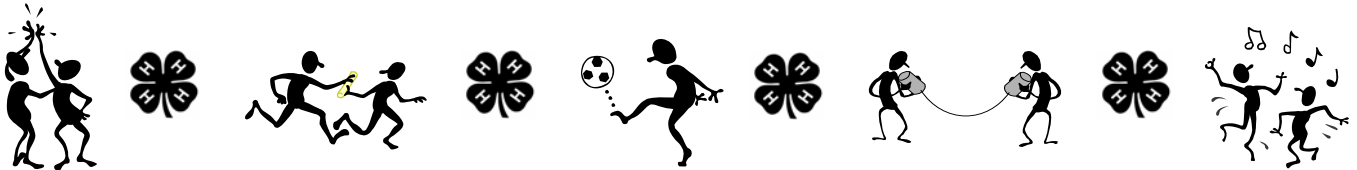




Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections



Spring 2007 Issue

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

Let's Plan for a Good Cloverbud Year!

The beginning of a new 4-H year is a most exciting time for both members and 4-H advisors. Returning members anticipate the opportunity to see Cloverbud friends again. Advisors are happy to be back working with 4-H members. And by far the most excited are the new Cloverbud members who are finally old enough to join 4-H.

It is very important for Cloverbud advisors to take time to put together a well designed program to help assure their efforts will provide a positive learning experience for their club members. As the plan is being developed it is important to remember several very important things that can affect how successful clubs will be in achieving their goals.

First and foremost take into account your audience. Families often have busy schedules and club programs should be designed to accommodate their needs. Advisors are encouraged to find ways to obtain feedback from parents regarding meeting times, days of the week and length. It is almost impossible to meet the needs of all families, but planning meeting times based upon the audience we serve helps assure higher levels of participation.

4-H Cloverbud Advisors should also keep the following in mind as they develop their yearly program. Member learning and participation in Cloverbud programming will be enhanced by:

- * Well planned meetings
- * Meetings that include a variety of activities
- * Activities which are age-appropriate
- * Meetings that are around 60 minutes in length
- * Regular communication with parents
- * Providing a printed schedule/program to families

Good luck as you prepare for another 4-H Cloverbud experience.

*Ken Lafontaine
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
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Click it, Print it, Do it!

www.cloverbudconnections.osu.edu

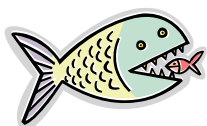
Are you looking for an easy activity to teach 4-H Cloverbuds about wildlife? This quarter you will find a Nature Detective activity on-line and ready for you to print! The activity sheets include a description of how to use your senses to find things in nature.

Wildlife Learning Activities

“Getting Familiar with Wildlife”

Materials: pictures or live specimens of wildlife (fish, wild flowers, butterflies), and large sheet of paper to make a list

Wildlife are plants and animals that have not been domesticated. People often think of wildlife as the deer or rabbit they hunt or the fish they catch. Wildlife includes the following: ducks, rabbits, moose, deer, squirrels, turkeys, robins, wild flowers, coyotes, frogs, elk, butterflies, mockingbirds, beavers, fish, foxes, bears, raccoons, and many other species.



Have the children sit on the floor in a half circle. Explain the term wildlife and have them brainstorm as many examples of wildlife species as they can. Discuss with them all the various types of wildlife and list them. Have pictures of wildlife (squirrels, fish, etc.) or live specimens (fish, wild flowers, butterflies, etc.) in which the children can learn more about. Are any considered endangered species? What does “endangered species” mean?

“Nature Walk”

Materials: crayons, markers, pencils, and construction paper

Take the children for a nature walk in a wooded area, park, field, or grassy area. Familiarize children with the term wildlife and have them look for wildlife such as birds, squirrels, insects, wild flowers, etc. Ask them to be very quiet and listen to the sounds of nature. What does it sound like? Have them pick some wild flowers. What do they smell like?

Application: After the nature walk, have the children draw with markers, crayons, or pencils on construction paper what they saw when they were on the nature walk. Ask them to think for a minute of what they saw and then draw it.

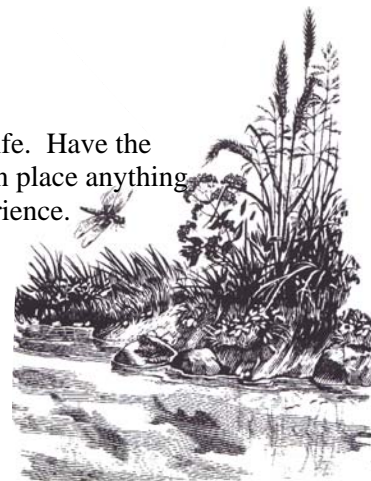


“Crittter Creek Hunt”

Materials: jars, water source, tubs and nets (optional)

Take the children to a shallow stream, lake, or pond so they can observe aquatic wildlife. Have the children wade into the shallow water in search of insects, fish, or plants. The children can place anything they find into small jars and take them for further study. Make this a great learning experience.

Note to the Volunteer: Make sure the children are watched carefully when around water sources. If wading into water is not an option, you can make a wonderful experience on shore. Just take a large bucket and scoop water and aquatic wildlife and place in large tubs on shore. Maybe catch some small fish or insects with nets and place in tubs. The children then can simply observe the tubs of aquatic wildlife fun.



Source: Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum - Series II
“Wildlife”. Authors: Michael Gower, Ft. Recovery, OH;
Lisa Wittenauer, Medina County, OSU Extension

911 for 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers

Are you a new 4-H Cloverbud Volunteer or are you looking for some fresh and easy ideas to do with your Cloverbuds. When you are in a 4-H panic who do you call? Here are some resources and ideas to help make our 4-H Cloverbud programs simple to organize, hands-on, and more educational.

1. Cloverbud Activity Kits

Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers can now borrow 4-H Cloverbud Kits from their local OSU Extension Office. As a result of a generous grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation, three kits have been developed for each county in Ohio. The kits focus on lessons taken directly from the Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum – Series II. The three kits are: The Science of Sound, Our Country, and Food Fun. Contact your OSU Extension Office to borrow a kit or you can make your own kit by printing the materials from the web: www.ohio4h.org/youth/cloverbud/cloverbudresources.html

2. Click it, Print it, and Do it!

Are you looking for an activity to help your Cloverbuds learn about a new topic? These topics are ready to print and do! Here are the topics that are currently posted: The 4-H Pledge; Weave a Flag; Listening and Coloring; Comparing Apples to Apples; Valentines for Community Service; and Be a Nature Detective. Find these on the web at: www.cloverbudconnections.osu.edu

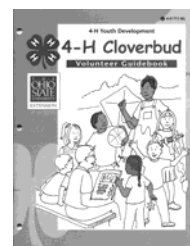


3. Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Curriculum – Series I & II

Both of these curriculums include short term, fun, cooperative, noncompetitive activities that can be used by adult volunteers with Cloverbud children. These are available for purchase from your OSU Extension Office or by checking on the web: www.ohio4h.org/youth/cloverbud/cloverbudresources.html

4. 4-H Cloverbud Volunteer Guidebook

The guidebook provides 4-H Cloverbud volunteers with information about the goals and “how to” strategies of the 4-H Cloverbud program. You can purchase or borrow a copy of the guidebook from your OSU Extension Office.



5. 4-H Cloverbud Training Video

The video was developed to assist 4-H Cloverbud volunteers in planning and organizing a 4-H Cloverbud program. Contact your Extension Office to borrow the video or by checking on the web: www.ohio4h.org/youth/cloverbud/cloverbudresources.html

6. Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections Website

The website is located at www.cloverbudconnections.osu.edu and provides volunteers access to Cloverbud activities, program ideas, and research based articles about working with K-2 youth.



Bruce Zimmer
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 Ohio State University Extension, Monroe County, Ohio

Campus Connections

Hello Ohio CloverBudders! It feels good to make another 4-H Cloverbud Connection with you!

This is our time of the year as plants, people, and places are beginning to bud as Spring starts to take over. As I write this column there is snow on the ground, but the sensations of a season change are ever present. Think about incorporating Spring themes into your 4-H Cloverbud activities with the children.



Before beginning a 4-H Cloverbud group get-together, have the children share with each other about what Spring means to them. Ask the children what they see, feel, hear, smell, and taste that helps them know it is Spring. With this simple activity the children are able to enhance life skills of feeling confident about themselves, getting along with others, and making decisions about the meaning of Spring.

Here are a few mind stretchers for 4-H Cloverbud children that are related to the Spring Theme:

- 1) How many colors are in a rainbow?
- 2) How long does Spring last?
- 3) What food products are made from tomatoes?
- 4) Do you say potato or pot(ah)to, tomato or tom(ah)to?

Alright, let the fun begin!

Thanks for all you do as a 4-H Cloverbud volunteer to help improve the lives of children throughout Ohio!!

*Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D.
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Trail Mix

Ingredients:

- 2 cups crispy cereal squares (combine flavors- corn, rice, etc.)
- 1 cup "O" shaped cereal
- 1 cup raisins
- 1 cup nuts
- 1 cup pretzel sticks

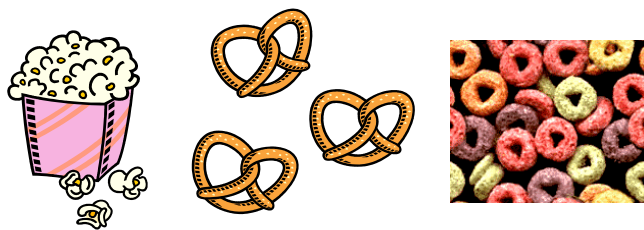
Put all food in a bowl.

Toss until mixed.

Eat and enjoy.

You may add dried fruit, chocolate chips, candy coated chocolate pieces, and/or popcorn.

Source: Hoover, C. (1995) Super Youth. Ohio State University Extension, Perry and Morgan Counties, Ohio



Ohio State University Extension

Cloverbud Connections is published four times annually by OSU Extension in Monroe and Hocking Counties, providing volunteers and teachers working with kindergarten through second grade access to unbiased, research-based information.

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