



Supporting Youth Leaders in Teaching

As we plan for education/learning in our clubs and groups, it's important to remember our youth members - youth can be teachers in your 4-H Clubs and Groups! Providing them the opportunity to share what they have learned can be a great way to boost the education in your club and group and build a sense of teamwork and community, while building mastery and skills in your youth members.

When working with youth who will be teaching, here are some tips to consider to make it successful:

- Work with them ahead of time. Establish clear timelines and any guidelines for the teaching lesson.
- Offer to do a practice run. Discuss things like what supplies will be needed, strategies to teach, rehearse timings. If teaching virtually, do they need extra technology – i.e camera, microphone?
- Is the youth leader doing a solo demonstration to show something, or will the rest of the club be doing it along with them? If club members will be doing activities, how will they get supplies?
- If participants need materials, consider how they get them. Will you give the participants a supply list for them to get on their own, or could the club purchase supplies and arrange a no contact pick up or drop off?
- Is it a live demonstration to your club, or will it be a recorded video shared with the group (recording allows for editing and practicing, but also requires more time)?
- What format will this be in? In person (during non-COVID time), in person, small group (following safety guidelines), or virtual (consider best platform for your club/group)?
- Be creative. Think about ways to connect and engage with your audience. Recognizing format of meeting (see above), consider ways that participants can ask questions, and how the youth leader can best answer.
- If your club is meeting virtually, consider a new officer position or team this year: tech support!
- No matter what format the meeting is in, support the youth leader in teaching, and during their lesson, and enthusiastically participate. Help set the tone of excitement and engagement.
- Youth can lead and teach without being the experts! Engage youth leaders in:
 - Having youth contact and invite potential speakers to meetings. Confirm time and place with speakers
 - Having youth “host” guest speakers, including arranging meeting room or virtual space, supplies distribution, facilitating questions and answers, thanking speakers, etc.