

Barriers to Youth-Adult Partnerships

Strong youth-adult partnerships are the gold standard of 4-H.

We want youth and adults to:

- Respect and trust each other,
- Collaborate to make decisions, and
- Share responsibilities.

There are some barriers that you might come across.

The two common barrier types are:

1 Attitudes youth and adults have of each other

Adults' attitudes of youth:

- Lack of experience
- Dropping the ball
- Follow through

Youth attitudes of adults:

- Won't admit they are wrong
- Power—no youth needed
- Rules are rules

2 Planning and meeting differences

- Logistical and organizational barriers
- Barriers may not be the same for youth and adults
- Schedule of meetings
- Transportation
- Food
- Training to work with youth

Introduce scenarios

- We will provide some scenarios and then send you into breakout rooms to discuss how you would work through or overcome these barriers.

Suggested scenarios

- At your September club meeting, the general leader creates and hands out a calendar with service projects and activities listed for each month. Youth and families are told they need to pick at least one event they will organize.

- The youth recreation leader said they were going to have a game at the end of the club meeting. They forgot to bring any supplies for the activity.

Suggested scenarios continue on page 2.



Suggested scenarios

(cont.)

- An adult in the club keeps interrupting and speaking over the youth president as if the adult thinks the president does not know what they are doing, or that they are going too slow.
- The 4-H club wants to have a community food drive. They are having difficulty deciding who will contact community members to accept the food, potential sponsors and donors, promoting the food drive, and other important details.
- A youth was elected President for the Clever Clovers 4-H Club. They are excited to help plan activities for the year and set goals for the club to meet. Three months in, the youth president has yet to see an agenda before the meeting or discuss goals.
- A 9-year-old club member really wants to be club treasurer, but the club's bylaws state that members have to be in 8th grade.
- Several members of the youth officer team are a part of the school musical and can't meet during their normal officer meeting time.
- A club leader asked for ideas for the club's educational booth at the fair. After getting group feedback, the leader decided that they were going to go with the leader's idea because it was easier.

Reflection and discussion questions

- What words or phrases caught your attention?
- What discussions did groups have during the activity?
- What new ideas did you see?
- What concerns do you have?
- What would you say about the information to someone who is not here?
- What can you do over the next two weeks to begin to address a block or barrier?

NOTES

