



Creative Ideas to Enhance Club Meetings



Below you will find creative ideas to enhance your club meetings. Any item with an * can be adapted to a virtual meeting setting. Officers could decide what two options to provide at each meeting and members could vote for what would be added to the next club meeting.

CRAZY THEME DAY*:

One meeting could be jazzed up by incorporating a fun theme. During roll call, members may show off and tell the story behind what they brought to match the theme. Suggested themes include a mismatched day, 4-H green day, hat day, pajamas day, crazy shoe day, tie day, bring a stuffed animal day, sunglasses day, backwards clothing day and dress as your parents day. These are just some examples. Have the club help you create more, or add more yourself.

PARTICIPATION INCENTIVE*:

This works best when the officers or leaders take charge. When members make a motion, give discussion or ask a question they can be presented with an incentive. This might just increase club participation! Incentives can be “traveling,” virtual background, 4-H promo item, etc.

BACKWARDS MEETING*:

Start the meeting with the motion for adjournment and go from there! The entire meeting is backwards. Members and parents might even want to dress backwards. Talk about really learning the meeting order; this will do it!

SITTING IN A CIRCLE:

Meetings commonly occur when members are seated in rows facing the officers’ table. Have members sit in a circle with the officers in the center. Changing the outlook might just change participation. New changes in seating arrangements can be tried at each meeting to see which is most effective.

MOVE TO A NEW SEAT DURING THE MEETING *:

This is another seating adventure. The President could give the command. “Move two seats to your left.” “Rows one and two switch seats.” “End seats switch with each other.” The command can be different each time. The club members will definitely be paying attention to the meeting to hear where they need to move next. To adapt virtually, have 4-H members stop their video and move to a new room, change the direction they are facing, or change seats with family members. Then turn video back on.

INVITE GUEST SPEAKERS*:

Invite people to visit your club. These folks might have some educational information or hands-on activities to share with you. Ideas of people to contact include: fire department, police department, hospital, wildlife and parks department, or newspaper.



DRAW YOUR MEETING OUT OF A BAG*:

Cut up the order of the club meeting. Place the slips of paper in a bag. Draw out a slip of paper. That is the first item of the meeting. Continue until every item has been drawn out of the bag. This should make for a most interesting meeting!

TRIVIA CONTEST*:

Use Junior Trivial Pursuit or Brain Quest or create your own trivia. The President will announce when a trivia question will be asked. Several members can be appointed to ask questions prior to the meeting. When a member answers a question correctly, give them a piece of candy or club supply tote item. You just never know what you might learn next! Kahoot can be used virtually, along with the polling feature in Zoom and other online platforms.

INVITE A FRIEND*:

Encourage members to invite their friends who are not members of 4-H to a meeting. Have a special introduction ceremony for the club guests. Be sure to include information on how to join 4-H.

CLUB TOUR*:

Members showcase their project work. This can happen at another location like a park, a family's home, a farm or you can have a progressive tour where you visit many locations. You can also make a video and play it at a club meeting that is in-person or virtual. To do this in a virtual setting, have 4-H members show their projects online, submit videos to a Facebook Group, tour a farm, or showcase project work during a club meeting.

Local Contact Information

VISIT A NEW PLACE*:

Club field trips are an excellent way to discover what is in your community. The club can have a short meeting or incorporate the new location into the meeting. Don't forget to take photos to document all of the club adventures! For a virtual meeting, check out virtual tours for zoos, Smithsonian, and other museums.

HAVE A SECRET WORD CONTEST*:

When the Secretary reads the minutes of the previous meeting, a secret word can be inserted. Members will listen closely to determine what the word is. Members who then use the word in some way during the meeting can receive a small prize from the club's supply tote. Secret word examples include: popsicle, pillow, jelly bean, clover, and armadillo.

MEETING THEMES*:

This would relate to the dress-up idea. Members might want to dress-up and have a beach party theme, sledding theme, holiday theme or fifties theme. In the theme idea, the meeting location would be decorated and treats and recreation would relate to the theme.

PARENTS'/GUARDIAN MEETING*:

Let your parents/guardians do the work in this meeting! Adults will hold the offices, do the project talks, conduct recreation and more. This is sure to create some laughs!

Adapted from Strengthening 4-H Club Resources, Kansas 4-H Youth Development

