



**South Carolina 4-H Youth Development**  
4-H County Teen Council Program

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*“To Make the Best Better!”*

Picture



# Acknowledgements

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**We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following materials to the South Carolina 4-H Youth Development County Teen Council Program:**

### National 4-H (CCS) Curriculum

*Communications - (Level 1 - Picking Up the Pieces)*

*Communications - (Level 2 - Putting It Together)*

*Communications - (Level 3 - The Perfect Fit)*

*Communications Helper's Guide*

*Service Learning (Level 1 - Agents of Change)*

*Service Learning (Level 2 - Raise Your Voice)*

*Service Learning Helper's Guide*

*Step Up to Leadership (Level 1 - My Leadership Journal)*

*Step Up to Leadership (Level 2 - My Leadership Portfolio)*

[www.n4hccs.org](http://www.n4hccs.org)

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## 4-H County Teen Council Program Overview

### ✿ Objective

The purpose of the 4-H County Teen Council is to serve as a leadership team that assists the County 4-H Agent in planning and implementing various countywide initiatives and events for youth. The County Teen Council, geared for youth ages 13-15, is an opportunity for teens to actively practice their growing leadership skills. This handbook provides numerous ideas of events in which teens could take a leading role in planning and implementing. To help prepare teens to take on these roles, each event includes suggested training activities that introduce the skills needed for successfully holding the event. By teaching specific skills, then having the chance to put those skills into practice, teens will gain positive, practical experience.

### ✿ Trainers

4-H County Teen Council is an opportunity for teens to not only use the leadership skills that they have learned in 4-H but also for them to expand their leadership skills and interests. Because 4-H County Teen Council includes teaching and mentoring peers, it is highly recommended that the council members pair up and take on different assignments with the support and guidance from the adult volunteer advisor.

### ✿ Recognition

Individual counties (and/or regions) may want to provide recognition for each year of 4-H County Teen Council service (certificates, pins, badges, etc.) or create a special award to recognize those youth who have shown outstanding leadership or personal growth.

## Teaching Tips

*The learning characteristics and teaching tips for working with youth ages 13-15 illuminate some of the key factors influencing their learning experience. The following tips are intended to provide the trainer with guidance for working with youth in this age group. By following these tips, the advisor trainer will be able to enhance the 4-H County Teen Council experience and will better assist the teens in their planning and implementation of successful events.*

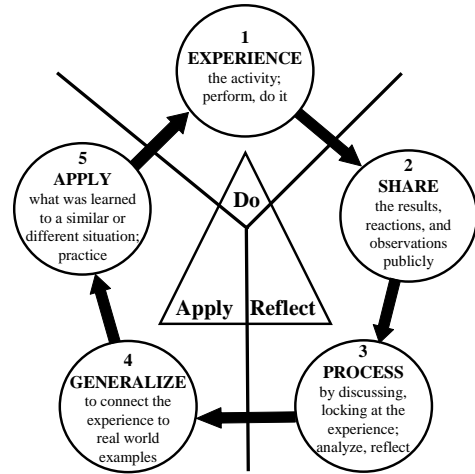
### Learning Characteristics of 13 - 15 Year Olds

- Can take responsibility in planning and evaluating their work
- Can plan social and recreational activities
- Can discuss current events, international affairs, and social issues with some help
- Want to make decisions but still depend on adults
- Can be quite self-conscious
- Choices are often unrealistic

### Tips for Teaching 13 - 15 Year Olds

- Give youth responsibility for planning, implementing, and evaluating group activities.
- Provide opportunities for youth to work together; form committees to plan recreational and social activities.
- Use discussion activities and games that encourage awareness of current events and issues.
- Establish guidelines that give parameters for youth and adults.
- Avoid asking youth to share their work individually until they feel more comfortable with the group.
- Assist youth in making realistic choices; review their plans, discuss alternatives, and help them weigh options before making decisions.

# 4-H Experiential Learning Model



## 1. Experience

Notice that the model begins with an experience—action. In each activity, the experience is the “do” part of the activity. This immediately focuses the attention on the learner rather than the teacher.

## 2. Share

The last four steps of the model are addressed in questions at the end of each activity. The questions are structured to elicit answers beyond a “yes,” “no,” or single word response. As the model shows, sharing is simply asking the group or individual: What did you do? What happened? This step will generate lots of information and lead to the process step.

## 3. Process

The “Process” questions focus on what was important about the experience. Common themes that emerge from the sharing session are explored in more depth. The key teaching points relating to the subject matter and life skill are discussed.

## 4. Generalize

In this step, discussion becomes more personal. The “generalize” questions are the “so what?” of the activity. They ask, “What did the experience mean to me personally and to my everyday life?”. The discussion should include both the subject matter learned and the life skill practiced. If the method employed required the youth to work in teams to complete the activity, questions about teamwork would be appropriate.

## 5. Apply

Here the youth express what they really learned and how they can use the life skill and subject matter expertise. Or they might actually show they have mastered the skill by performing another activity that requires use of the new skill. Remember that the questions are your way of assessing what has been learned. The answers you get will help you evaluate each youth’s level of skill mastery.



# 4-H County Teen Council Program

## County Event Ideas

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- ✿ Citizenship
  - ✿ College & Careers
  - ✿ Communication
  - ✿ Community Service
  - ✿ 4-H Education & Training
  - ✿ Social
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## Citizenship

### Conduct a County Legislative Day

Tour your county government offices and schedule short meetings/interviews with your county government officials. Discuss with them any local issues that impact youth along with possible solutions.

*Suggested Training Activity – Decisions, Decisions, Decisions from Step Up to Leadership (Level 3 - My Leadership Portfolio)*

### Host a County Citizenship Quiz Bowl

Using information from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Civic Study Guide (<http://www.uscis.gov/graphics/services/natz/ushist.pdf>), host a quiz bowl to test the participant's knowledge of US history and our government.

*Suggested Training Activity – Quiz Quest from the Communication Helper's Guide*

### Create a County Youth Advisory Committee

Select representatives to serve on a committee that meets with local government officials on a regular basis (quarterly). This committee could discuss pertinent youth issues with the officials and ways that they can be addressed, and they could be charged with developing a plan for engaging more youth in civic activities.

*Suggested Training Activity – I Can Change the World from Service Learning (Level 1- Agents of Change)*

## College & Careers

### Host a Career Panel

Invite representatives from varying professions to discuss their career paths, the educational training needed for their profession, and the skills required for their position.

*Suggested Training Activity – Q & A for Real Life from Step Up to Leadership (Level 2 - My Leadership Portfolio)*

### Host a College Day

Invite representatives from different colleges, technical schools, and professional schools to make presentations, exhibit materials, and answer questions about their schools.

*Suggested Training Activity – First Impressions from Communications - (Level 2 - Putting It Together)*

### Host a College Preparation Workshop

Ask high school guidance counselors and local college admissions officers to conduct workshops on how to best prepare college and financial aid applications, research colleges and scholarships, and schedule high school classes best suited for certain careers/majors.

*Suggested Training Activity – Best Foot Forward from Communications - (Level 3 - The Perfect Fit)*

## Communications

### Conduct a Communications Workshop

Invite a local college communications professor or a professional in the communications field to participate in a communications workshop that teaches about different types of communications including speeches, Powerpoint presentations, demonstrations, and illustrations. Include in the workshop practice opportunities and tips for developing public speaking skills.

Utilize the resources on the state 4-H web site along with the *Communications – Express Yourself!* curriculum or the 4-H Presentations Guide to teach a county-wide workshop on visual presentations, demonstrations, and public-speaking.

*Suggested Training Activities – Pull It Together from Communications (Level 3 - The Perfect Fit)*

### Host a County-wide Talks and Demonstrations Contest

Using a contest format, build upon the skills gained in the communications workshop by inviting club representatives to give their talks and demonstrations.

*Suggested Training Activity – Demonstrator from Communications Helper's Guide*

### Operate a TV News Program

Foster partnerships among clubs within the county by collaborating on a TV news program. Acting as news anchors, producers, directors, camera people, teleprompter operators, and sound and video engineers, the youth of the county could be responsible for producing and directing a 4-H-run news show.

*Suggested Training Activity – Be a Star from Service Learning Helper's Guide*

### Host a Skillathon

Organize a skillathon complete with learning stations focusing on different communication skills. Invite clubs to attend.

*Suggested Training Activity – Savvy Skillathon from Communications Helper's Guide*

## Community Service

### Create a Garden at a Nursing Home

Partner with a local nursing home and create a garden for the nursing home staff and residents to enjoy. Develop a maintenance schedule for different clubs to work in the garden. Ask different clubs to select a flower to contribute to the garden that is their club flower.

*Suggested Training Activity – What’s My Service from Service Learning Helper’s Guide*

### Create an Art Mural

Involve the community in designing and creating a large art mural that the residents can enjoy. Work with the local government offices or schools to identify the location of the mural.

*Suggested Training Activity – The Real Deal from Service Learning (Level 2- Raise Your Voice)*

### Do a Canned Food Drive for a Local Food Bank

Ask the clubs in the county to contribute canned food to donate to a local food bank. The clubs could collect the food over a selected time period and then “cash in” their cans. The club with the most cans could receive a prize.

Partner with another youth organization in the county and host a contest between 4-H and the organization to see which organization collects the most cans.

*Suggested Training Activity – Pedal to the Medal from Service Learning (Level 2 - Raise Your Voice)*

### Hold a Christmas Ornament Contest

Organize a Christmas Ornament Contest in which the participants make original ornaments. Ornament categories could include: natural resources, recycled resources, beads, miscellaneous, and kit ornaments. After the contest use the ornaments to decorate Christmas trees for nursing home residents. Partner with a local nursing home and create a garden for the nursing home staff and residents to enjoy.

*Suggested Training Activity – News, News, News from Service Learning (Level 1 - Agents of Change)*

## 4-H Education & Training

### Conduct a 4-H Junior Leadership Training

Assist with the preparation and implementation of a 4-H Junior Leadership Training. The purpose of the South Carolina 4-H Junior Leadership Program is to teach youth the importance of understanding themselves as leaders, how to apply their leadership skills within a team setting, and assist them in identifying opportunities to practice their leadership skills in 4-H. Through leadership training, 4-H Junior Leaders will learn about the value of teamwork, realistic goal setting, and different decision-making processes. This three-hour training, designed for youth ages 11-13, will create a positive foundation for youth to transition into the many teen leadership opportunities available through 4-H. *Suggested Training Activity – Your Mission, Should You Decide to Accept It from Step Up to Leadership (Level 2 - My Leadership Portfolio)*

### Conduct a Club Officer Training

Plan and conduct a training specifically for the officers of the clubs in the county including the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and historian offices. Include information about the responsibilities of each office, conducting officer elections, and roundtable discussions about issues/challenges that officers face as well as how to overcome these challenges. *Suggested Training Activity – My Treasure Chest from Step Up to Leadership (Level 2 - My Leadership Portfolio)*

### Develop a Mentoring Program

Connect younger 4-Hers with older members through a mentoring program. The mentors will have the opportunity to share their 4-H knowledge, develop their leadership skills, and foster social connections. The mentees will begin networking and learning about 4-H as well as the opportunities that exist for them within the organization. *Suggested Training Activity – Mentoring Another from Communications (Level 2 – Mentoring Another)*

### Create a 4-H Exhibit Booth

Design and create an exhibit booth that is both educational and eye-catching. Along with educating the public about 4-H, the booth could be used as a recruitment tool at a variety of county events and the state fair. Communications workshop participants or 4-H Ambassadors could be recruited to staff the booth during the events. *Suggested Training Activity – Speech Accessorizing from Communications (Level 3 - The Perfect Fit)*

## 4-H Education & Training

### Develop a 4-H County Website

Work with the county agent and the state 4-H office to develop a website specific to the county. The website could include information about different clubs in the county, special accomplishments, program areas, and a calendar of upcoming events.

*Suggested Training Activity – Web Wizards from Service Learning Helper’s Guide*

### Host a National 4-H Week Celebration

Plan various ways to educate the public about 4-H. Utilize the National website ([http://4hmediaresources.org/4hweek\\_kit.htm](http://4hmediaresources.org/4hweek_kit.htm)) for examples of new releases, radio ads, proclamations, and more.

*Suggested Training Activity – Voice for Change from Service Learning (Level 2 - Raise Your Voice)*

### Conduct a 4-H Record-keeping / Resume / Portfolio Workshop

Utilize the resources on the state 4-H web site along with examples from older 4-H members who have completed each of these record forms. Invite members from all the clubs to attend and practice using these forms.

*Suggested Training Activity – Take Me As I Am from Communications (Level 3 – The Perfect Fit)*

### Participate in an International 4-H Youth Exchange Program

Advocate, support and participate in international exchanges of 4-H youth by developing an exchange program and securing funding for the program. 4-H international exchange programs increase global awareness, develops independent study interests, and improves language skills since participants live with host families.

*Suggested Training Activity – Take Your Pick from Service Learning Helper’s Guide*

### Host a 4-H County Showcase

Invite all clubs to celebrate their accomplishments by participating in a showcase during which the clubs have the opportunity to present a poster highlighting their activities, exhibit examples of their projects or demonstrate some of their learned skills. Award a best of show prize for the best showcase presentation, exhibit, demonstration, etc.

*Suggested Training Activity – Bridging to Partnership from Step Up to Leadership (Level 2 - My Leadership Portfolio)*

## 4-H Education & Training

### Attend 4-H State Teen Weekend

The goal of the State 4-H Teen Weekend is to inspire teens to become more active citizens and challenge them to find ways to make a difference in their local communities – not just once, but to make service a lifelong habit.

*Suggested Training Activity – Bulls Eye from Service Learning (Level 2) – Raise Your Voice*

### Attend State 4-H Congress

The goal of State 4-H Congress is to motivate teens to expand their 4-H knowledge and leadership skills while celebrating and recognizing teens who make the best better.

*Suggested Training Activity – Intriguing Interviews from Communications Helper's Guide*

## Social

### Host a County Talent Show

Feature musical, dramatic, and novelty acts such as stunts, pantomimes, etc. in a county talent show. Advertise the event to the public, and turn the talent show into a fundraiser.

*Suggested Training Activity – Talent Search from Step Up to Leadership (Level 1 - My Leadership Journal)*

### Throw a Holiday Party – Halloween, Christmas, Valentine’s, or St. Patrick’s Day

Plan a party centered around a holiday. Choose decorations, food, and activities appropriate to the holiday.

*Suggested Training Activity – The Right Step from Service Learning (Level 1 - Agents of Change)*

### Host a 4-H Family Field Day

Invite club members to attend and bring their families. Play a variety of field games like the three-legged race and the sack race. Conclude the event with a picnic.

*Suggested Training Activity – Find Your Role from Service Learning Helper’s Guide*



# 4-H County Teen Council Program Resource Materials

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- ✿ Membership Certificate
- ✿ Running a Smooth Business Meeting
- ✿ Planning and Conducting a Successful Program or Activity





South Carolina 4-H Youth Development  
**4-H County Teen Council  
Program**

This certificate is awarded in recognition of  
membership in the  
4-H County Teen Council Program

County

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Date:

Council Advisor

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