



# WE CU VOLUNTEER

## April is Volunteers Month!

Thank you to all of our amazing 4-H Volunteers that give their time, talents, and service to the youth of our communities.



Over 3,000 adult volunteers in SC #InspireKidsToDo everyday by giving them more opportunities to grow and lead in life and career—through hands on learning and doing!

According to a study by Purdue University, 4-H volunteers benefit youth in many ways: they serve as a positive role model for the youth; volunteers are able to help, listen, and "be there" for the youth; they

help youth develop community connections, provide service to others, and demonstrate active citizenship; they help youth learn new content and knowledge that leads to the mastery of a topic; and much, much more!!!

Thank you for all of your immeasurable contributions to youth across our great state!

### Upcoming Statewide Programs:



**Sporting Clays Tournament Fundraiser**  
**May 31, 2019**

Help us raise funds to support statewide 4-H opportunities (all ages)

Register by May 22nd



**4-H Club Summer Camp**  
**June 16-20 & July 21-25, 2019**

Traditional camp activities with fun, friends, & adventure (ages 7-14 years)

Register at your local Extension Office



**State 4-H Congress**  
**July 10-13, 2019**

Youth leadership conference at Clemson (for ages 14-18 years)

Register by June 24th

“For many kids, it is eye-opening for them to realize that not everyone is exactly like them or as fortunate to have the same things they do, and it’s important to teach kids the importance of helping those in need. That’s why a goal for many parents is to teach their kids gratitude. Doing so not only helps them appreciate what they have, but it also broadens their perspectives and makes them more caring.”

*National 4-H Council*



# Monthly 4-H Club Activity Idea

By Ashley Burns, Assistant 4-H Director



## Strength in Belonging

**Objective:** To have youth gain an appreciation of difference and strengths of diversity within a group

**Age Range:** Any age

**Hands-on Activity:** create a visual representation of similarities and differences

**Life Skills:** HEAD – learning to learn;  
HEART – communication, sharing;  
HANDS – leadership, contributions to the group effort;  
HEALTH – accepting differences, character, self-discipline.

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### Introduction

As a volunteer leader, you can incorporate lots of ideas at any of your six\* club meetings to ensure positive youth development (PYD) that compliment 4-H project experiences. We strongly recommend that you use approved curriculum for project activities based on an experiential learning model. Ask your 4-H agent to learn more. One major thing a leader can focus on for PYD is belonging. Included is an activity that can be varied and modified to best reach this goal based on the needs of your 4-H club members and highlights the principles of belonging.

In addition to the activity highlighted in this document, you can model the following tips to foster a culture of belonging. As the 4-H club leader, learning all the names of your club members and be prepared to greet each youth by their name with a smile as they enter is a great way to make children feel like they belong. Prior to each meeting as the leader you will want to remember an interesting fact, preference, or interest about each member. Try to remember at least one detail so that each child feels like they matter to you. Having a significant adult in the life of a young person helps them feel connected and important. (Making a list which each child's name and a few details about them will be helpful as you get to know your club members and help them make valuable connections).



\*Six meetings in a club year is a minimum number of meetings for clubs that meet for 1 hour or less at each time.

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## Materials

- Construction paper (pre-cut into strips)
- Markers
- Stapler/staples or tape

## Instructions

1. Pass around multi-colored construction paper pre-cut into strips (about 1-inch by 8.5-inches). Each youth should take two strips of paper.
2. On one strip of paper, they will write a way that they are similar to others in their 4-H club or share something in common.
3. On the second strip, they will write down one way they are different from the other members.
4. Allow youth to share the ways that they are similar and different, as they share they will join their links into the chain by overlapping and joining the ends of their strips together (tape or staple).
5. When you are finished, you will have a chain representing the diverse attributes of the youth in your club and you can reflect on why our similarities and differences are important and together we can create a stronger chain. Remind youth to consider how they apply the concept of appreciating the differences of others at school or at other times.

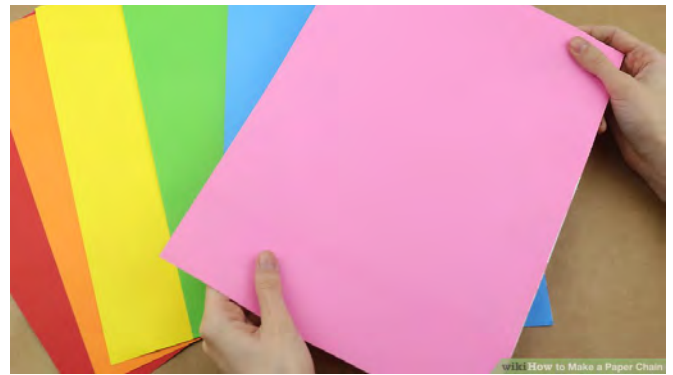


Image Credit: WikiHow.com – How to make a paper chain.

## Conclusion

In 4-H, we believe each child has real strengths and influence to impact the world around us. All young people want to belong and be members of groups. Fostering that environment allows us to “make the best better”.

## Resources:

Hensley, S. and H. Kent. 2015. SPIN (Special Interest) Club Leader: Six Meeting Lesson Plan. University of Florida IFAS Extension. <http://florida4h.org/volunteers/Six-session-lesson-plan-for-Special-Project-Interest-Clubs.pdf>

Wagoner, S. 2010. University of Illinois Extension. 4-H Essential Elements of Positive Youth Development – PYD: Belonging. <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/4hteenteachers/documents/Belonging-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

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