

New
Jersey **4-H**

Leader Training Series



Selecting a Name for Your 4-H Club

Naming a 4-H Club is Both Challenging and Fun

Some Examples to Consider:

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Each 4-H club is a unique group of individuals who work together toward common goals. A club name should reflect the purpose(s) of the club, often relating to the project(s) the club participates in, or the geographic area where members live, or the club meets. Allow all of the members to participate in selecting a name for the club. Information in this sheet may help you guide the members in making a wise choice.

Since 4-H is an educational youth development program, committed to equal opportunities for all, be sure to keep this in mind when selecting a club name. As a part of Rutgers Cooperative Extension, publicly-funded by county, state, and federal governments, *4-H does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or handicap.* Therefore, please be sure that the club name you select is not biased for or against certain groups in any of these categories. It is possible to overlook subtle insinuations that some club names might accidentally exhibit.

Creative or cute names for 4-H clubs are fine—but consider whether any potential club members might shy away from joining just because of a misleading name. To maintain a positive image for the entire 4-H program, club names should neither shock nor confuse the public.

For a 4-H home economics club:



“The Sewing Susans” would obviously discriminate against boys, whereas “The Nimble Thimbles 4-H Club” might be a better idea. But, make sure such a “cute” name wouldn’t be a turn-off to any members or potential members. Teens are particularly sensitive to cute names that may be better appreciated by younger kids.

In Summary . . .



For a 4-H gardening club:



“The Dirty Hands” would not be as appropriate as “The Green Thumbs 4-H Gardening Club” or “The Grow-Kids 4-H Club.”

Most “violations” become obvious as you and your club carefully consider the club name. Just beware of the not-so-obvious possibilities! Therefore, when selecting a club name, think about it carefully, be creative, and use a little common sense. To avoid confusion, try not to select a name currently being used by another club. When in doubt about a duplication or acceptance of a name, contact the county 4-H office for “approval” or suggestions.

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