Idea Sheet

IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE CLUB NAMES

By Walter Hitt
Assistant Professor
Department of Youth Development
University of Wisconsin-Extension
Marinette County

One of the first items of business for a new 4-H club is to select a club name. Most groups have not planned ahead for this important task and usually very few possibilities are suggested by young members. Furthermore, some of the names may not be appropriate.

The purpose of the "Ideas for Possible Club Names" is to offer several possibilities so that members have a frame of reference for making suggestions. It also provides a strategy on selecting a name.

A Rose, by any other name, is not as sweet a rose. Names are very important. A clever name requires some forethought. If it can be readily achieved, it is one step toward instilling confidence in new club leaders.

Providing a handout to answer a need serves as a link to the University of Wisconsin Extension office. A link that must be developed and reinforced if the new club is to become firmly established and active in 4-H activities. Handouts of this nature simplify an agent's job, as it is one less item to worry about. The agent is prepared at the appropriate moment when help is needed, since once a name is selected it is rarely ever changed. Agents must become more efficient as more and more demands are being made on them, reducing their planning and preparation time.

This handout has been successfully used with several new 4-H clubs. It is not quite as helpful to special interest groups who want a name unique to their special hobby or interest. However, the handout does stimulate ideas.
The following suggested strategy may be used in total or modified to fit the user's needs.

A SUGGESTED STRATEGY

1. Brainstorm

   (a) Members and leaders are encouraged to think up as many names as possible. List each name that is suggested.

   (b) Do not allow any evaluation on these suggestions - this is a brainstorming session only. Judgements or comments at this time reduce creativity, since people tend to become more concerned about defending their suggestion than thinking up better names.

   (c) Encourage everyone to add to the list as well as to modify and combine previous suggestions. For example: combining clover and pals to make clover pals.

2. Next, evaluate the names suggested. Another method is to set up a committee to work with club leader(s) in selecting several of the best possibilities. The committee can then present its list at the next meeting. You thereby avoid a name which may appeal to several members but may be objectionable in some way.

3. Vote for the top two or three.

4. Have members write down the selected name and/or discuss what the name makes them think of. This will help make them aware of what others will think of their club. How does this name make you feel when you think about it?

5. Have members evaluate the suggested name by asking them the following questions:

   (a) What do you want your friends, parents and other people to think of when they see or hear your club's name?

   (b) Would you be proud to tell your friends that you are a member of (suggested name) club?

6. Have members ask other people's opinions of the suggested name between now and the next meeting.

7. Contact the 4-H agent to inform him or her of the club's choice of names.
IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE CLUB NAMES

Achievers
Adventurers
Always Onward

Badgers
Clever Clovers
Cloverettes
Clover Climbers
Clover Hill
Clover Leaf
Cool Kids
Country Roads

Doer's
Eagles
Easy Riders

Fairview
Go-Getters
Golden Oak
Golden Rule
Green Acres
Green Leaf

Happy Helpers
Happy Workers
Helpful Hands
Hi-Hopes

Hi-Flyers
Hill-N-Dale
Hill Top or Toppers

Lucky Clovers
Lucky Fours
Lucky Leaf

Nitingale
Opportunity

Pals
Partners
Patriots
Pioneers

Rainbow
Rambling Riders
Ridge and Valley
Ridgeway
Rivers Edge
Road Runners

Shooting Stars
Stardust
Sunshine

Whispering Pines
Whiperettes
Wonder Workers

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

1. It may be necessary to strongly emphasize a preference to avoid a name that is objectionable—one which may sound like a motorcycle gang. Select a name all will be proud of.

2. You may want to use the name of a river, road, village, city, hill, etc., in your club name.

3. Select a name you can grow with. "The Screaming Monkeys" is not a name a group of nine year olds may want when they are age 12 or 13. A group actually selected this name!

WCH:tae

4-H'ers

MAKE THE BEST...

...BETTER!