Planning Your Second Year of 4-H

The first year of 4-H is a time to explore and experience. 4-H offers a lot of projects and activities. You can’t do them all in one year. That’s why 4-H is for kids from 8 to 18 years old. There is something new for you to do each year that you are a 4-H member.

Early this fall, your 4-H club will be having an organizational meeting. This is a time for you to think ahead to your second year of 4-H.

The first thing to think about is: What projects will I take? Think about the projects that you took this year. Did you like them? You may want to take them again. You can take the same project and try some new activities. Or you can move on to another level. Maybe you would like to try some new projects. Your leader will have the new Illinois Clover very soon. You can look through all the projects again. Be sure to look close. There might even be a few new projects listed.

The next thing to think about is: What will I do in my 4-H club? Would you like to be on any club committees? What about being a club officer? Recreation chair, reporter, or historian are good offices to start with. You’ll have some leadership responsibility, but not too much. Also, start thinking about speeches and demonstrations that you could give this year. You have the first one under your belt, and they get easier the second time.

Now ask yourself: Would I like to get involved at the county level? The county 4-H program offers lots of different activities during the year. You can try workshops to learn more about your projects. You can take part in public speaking contests. You can be on a dairy bowl, or horse bowl team. You can learn more about judging by being on a livestock, horse, forestry, horticulture, dairy, or meats judging team. And you can learn more about other projects at the fair or compete for awards.

Get the most out of 4-H by trying new things and having fun! If you want to know more about projects, events, or activities, ask your leader, a member of your club, or call your local Extension office.

Check out the Illinois 4-H Web site at http://www.4-H.uiuc.edu.

Have a great second year!