What every 4-H leader should know about 4-H Cloverbuds

We all want our kids to grow into good, confident, responsible adults. After all, our kids are the future. But, how do we make it happen? How do we build the self esteem that is so vital to success in life?

As a 4-H volunteer, you know that the Illinois 4-H program has a long history of helping young people, ages 8-19, grow into well-adjusted, productive adults. For years, 4-H members have learned about the importance of gaining new skills, making positive decisions, and communicating effectively with others.

We also know that young children need some of these same skills. They need to have successful learning experiences. They need to learn how to share, work together, and get along with others. And, they need to learn how to make new friends and communicate in positive ways.

4-H is available to youngsters ages 5-7 through the 4-H Cloverbud program.

The 4-H Cloverbud program is only a phone call away. Contact your local Extension office.

You Know What 4-H Can Do for Young People

4-H Cloverbuds

Now See What It Can Do for Kids, Ages 5-7
What is the 4-H Cloverbud program?

The 4-H Cloverbud program is an opportunity that helps build confident kids. Specially designed for youngsters ages five through seven, the 4-H Cloverbud program gets kids excited about learning.

The 4-H Cloverbud program uses hands-on learning activities to help kids explore art, plants and animals, science, and the environment. Youngsters also engage in group activities that promote personal development, healthy lifestyles, and a sense of citizenship.

4-H Cloverbud members attend fun-filled meetings that include a learning activity, recreation period and snack time. A trained 4-H Cloverbud volunteer leads the meetings with help from parents.

The 4-H Cloverbud program works best when parents are involved. Parents should be encouraged to actively support the efforts of the 4-H Cloverbud group. Helping with special events, refreshments, and transportation are just some ways parents can get involved.

How is the 4-H Cloverbud program different?

The 4-H Cloverbud program uses hands-on learning and group activities that are so familiar in traditional 4-H groups.

But, there are some important differences in the 4-H Cloverbud program. The 4-H Cloverbud program is activity-based. This means that 4-H Cloverbud groups use short activities that create a cooperative and fun approach to learning. The goal is for 4-H Cloverbud members to have immediate success in their learning efforts.

The 4-H Cloverbud program is not a mini-4-H group. Rather, it is a unique educational program, with specific learning goals that are appropriate for children ages 5–7.

The 4-H Cloverbud program is also non-competitive. This means that 4-H premiums are not available to 4-H Cloverbud members. However, counties may offer a non-competitive exhibition at 4-H shows to give 4-H Cloverbud members a chance to display their accomplishments.

How does the 4-H Cloverbud program work?

4-H Cloverbud groups can be started in lots of different ways. The Cloverbud program can be offered in school classrooms, in after-school programs, or as part of a local 4-H program.

4-H Cloverbud groups, that are part of the local 4-H program, have their own meetings with planned activities. The meetings are usually an hour long and include a learning activity, recreation period, and snack time. These 4-H Cloverbud groups can function as an independent group or as a "project group" affiliated with a community 4-H club. In either case, a qualified 4-H Cloverbud volunteer leader oversees the 4-H Cloverbud meeting with assistance from parent helpers.

4-H Cloverbud volunteers receive training and materials to help them lead 4-H Cloverbud groups. The 4-H Cloverbud materials include activities for meetings, organizing tips and strategies for involving parents.

Give kids, ages 5–7, a chance to experience 4-H in your community. Contact your local Extension office to find out how you can get involved with the 4-H Cloverbud program.