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4-H CLUB WORK TRAINS ITS MEMBERS FOR LEADERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

A radio talk by Betty Brown, 4-H club girl, Lyon County, Kansas, delivered in the National 4-H club radio program, December 7, 1935, and broadcast by a network of 58 associate NBC radio stations.

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There is a desire in the heart of every boy and girl to be recognized as an individual, and to be a member of a group. There was a time not so far away when farm boys and girls were deprived of this privilege and were pretty much "left out" of things. Now rural boys and girls have an organization that brings to them a four fold development of head, heart, hands and health and to give them things that heretofore they had to do without.

Four-H Club work trains its members for leadership responsibilities. The word leadership is, a general term, which may be defined in various ways, but specifically the leadership that can be recognized from 4-H training falls in two groups. First - where the leader assumes all responsibilities and the members merely follow specific instructions. This plan does not develop true leadership and should be discouraged. However, it is a common type and practiced in many organizations. Second - the desirable type and the one which demands greater ingenuity on the part of the leader and should be the goal of every club member, is that in which the leader encourages the members to assume entire responsibility of given situations or problems.

The leadership training of a 4-H member begins in the first years of 4-H club work. Through project work, demonstration team work, and parliamentary procedure a member learns to take charge, meet people, acquire poise and good bearing and show good sportsmanship. Boys and girls do not inherit good sportsmanship, yet it is really the most fundamental lesson of conduct that they have to learn. A good example for a leader to set before a group of young people is to show good sportsmanship in his or her club activities.

Junior leadership has become an outstanding project for boys and girls over the age of fifteen. The group is always stronger than the individual and through the leaders the younger and more independent individuals have their actions controlled and regulated. To give leadership, companionship, example, friendship, and quality to a group of earnest young people is a real privilege and responsibility. The leaders are the most important cogs in the great 4-H movement. One good training is to be prepared to hold an office and when that time comes, carry the responsibility bit by bit. A real 4-H member looks forward some day to being himself, the leader of a 4-H club. Help in every phase possible - this is leadership training and service. In all 4-H camps we find excellent leadership and sportsmanship and the desire of the youth to continue this great movement. As the leadership training goes on there is an advantage to attend camps both State and National, where leadership training is highly stressed. There are two American Youth Foundation camps and one National 4-H camp in the United States which offer the training of advance leadership.

In the farm life today we find our homes and land depreciating in value because the homes are run down in appearance and because of soil

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erosion. The youths today are the ones who will have to build back the value of our farms through our conservation work. The conservation projects are new to 4-H club members in Kansas. We have a problem today which is of uppermost interest to the farm boys and girls because of the need to preserve wild life and growing things. Two forces can be used to balance nature - first, the ability to reproduce and second, the things that tend to prevent, increase. Other activities included in conservation are soil erosion, house remodeling, forestry and fire prevention.

The social graces are automatically acquired through the cultural study of music appreciation, chorus work and recreation.

The health project, a very important phase of club work, is carried out through application of all health rules learned from childhood. The awards are awarded through our County, State, and National Health Contests. The value of the project is attained by each individual through the fact that they have learned the "Art of Better Living".

The 4-H Emblem symbolizes the Four Fold Development through the training of the head, the heart, the hands, and the health. As a various projects included under the 4 H's are gradually completed, so is the project of leadership training being completed. The 4-H Clubs are training their members for leadership responsibilities through the application of the 4-H Club motto, "To Make the Best Better".

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