

4-H Youth Development Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

The 4-H Youth Development Advisory Committee Meeting was held Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 4 p.m. at the East Carroll Parish 4-H Office.

Those present were: Anita Perry, Laurie Brister, Jimmy McCree, Rebecca Thompson, Sr. Bernie Barrett, Tiffany (Nickie) Newman, Rosie Brown, Henry Collins, Kelley Hiemstra – LSU AgCenter regional 4-H coordinator, Donna Lee – LSU AgCenter associate county agent and parish chair, Sherry Smith – LSU AgCenter administrative coordinator, and Cynthia Pierfax – LSU AgCenter assistant extension agent (4-H).

Miss Pierfax opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and gave everyone a copy of the agenda.

She then gave a brief description of the purpose of Extension. You all are stakeholders and we are here to make sure Extension is doing what is expected of us.

Copies of *8 Key Elements of Positive Youth Development*, descriptions of Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity and the minutes from the last advisory council meeting were distributed and briefly discussed. Copies, except for the last meeting's minutes, are attached.

Items brought up at the last meeting that still need to be addressed are:

1. Laziness – Participation was low at the beginning of the year because Miss Pierfax was new and the kids were not familiar with her. However, 4-H members' have improved their participation in camps, garden club, horse club, etc.

It was mentioned that the produce grown by the garden club would be given to the community. Ms. Anita Perry asked if the produce could be sold to raise money for East Carroll's 4-H program. The answer was a definite yes. Also mentioned is a Plant Sale fundraiser that will be held April 26 at the 4-H Office.

2. Lack of good role models – We need young adults (possibly ages 18 – 25 who do not have their own family) to chaperone at camp and any other overnight events. Adults who have a family are tied down and cannot stay away from home as easily. 4-H can pay a chaperone to go to these events, but East Carroll 4-H does not have funding to do this.

It was suggested that local merchants be asked to financially support events where chaperones would be needed. Miss Pierfax stated that local merchants are already being asked to help support 4-H members to attend 4-H U and other events.

Benefits of participating in 4-H were discussed:

1. Self-confidence – the youth gain self-confidence by interacting with others, i.e. Demonstration Day – 4-H'ers had to demonstrate how to do something like: make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich, make a Millionaire pie, wash a dog, clean a saddle, etc.
2. Self-awareness – the youth gain self-awareness by participating in livestock shows.
3. Leadership skills – youth who are not in 4-H look up to those who are because 4-H members talk about things they get to experience.
4. Connectivity to adults – adults are willing to spend quality time with youth.
5. Meet other people – youth gain a network of friends from other places by attending camp and other out-of-parish events.

Ms. Kelley Hiemstra talked about Miss Pierfax's focus area for the past year and coming year. In-school clubs meet monthly whereas out-of-school clubs hold workshops and form clubs like the garden club and the horse club. Ms. Hiemstra asked for ideas of subject matter that the in-school clubs could focus on for next year.

She explained that Miss Pierfax gave a pre-test and post-test to 6th, 7th and 8th grade 4-H'ers to determine what they knew before and what they learned during club meetings. Miss Pierfax handed out a copy of the pre-test (attached). The average score on the pre-test was 30 and the average score on the post-test was 75-80.

The focus area for Elementary this past year was Science. Suggestions for this year's focus area were as follows:

1. Technology – computer safety, i.e. general Internet, Facebook and Twitter safety. Miss Pierfax stated that during club meetings every 4-H member would not have access to a computer nor would there be enough time in the allotted hour for hands-on experience. It was suggested that she would still be able to give information and tips.
2. Weather – hurricane, tornado and other natural disaster safety; fire safety and prevention was also mentioned – could possibly get a fire truck to visit during club meetings
3. Drug abuse – drug usage in adults is rampant in the parish and if we could educate the youth about it, it might help to deter them from using as they grow up.
4. Character Development and Etiquette

The focus area for Jr. High and High school this past year was Financial Education. Miss Pierfax stated that a lot of the 4-H members didn't know how to balance a checkbook. She held a competition for balancing a checkbook correctly and the winner received a free lunch. During club meetings they discussed taxes (FICA), credit scores, etc.

Ms. Hiemstra asked why there is such a lack of interest in 4-H at the high school level. Miss Pierfax said the youth think it is not cool at that age to be in 4-H.

Miss Pierfax stated she is starting a Jr. Leadership Club and in the beginning they are going to Madison Parish to observe one of their meetings. They will elect officers and do service learning projects.

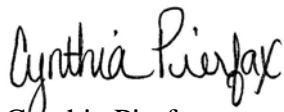
Suggestions for this year's Jr. High and High school focus area were as follows:

1. Technology
 2. Money – children need to learn about money
 3. Etiquette/Character Development – a lot of children don't know how to conduct themselves in public
 4. Environment – recycling, gardening, trips to Tensas River National Wildlife Refuge
- Miriam Russell works with economic development. She is going to pick up thousands of trash bags and deliver them to our region to be distributed to 4-H'ers.

It was decided that the focus area for Elementary for the coming year will be Technology. Weather safety and etiquette (cyber bullying) will be incorporated into this focus area.

The focus area for Jr. High and High school will also be Technology. Financial management and etiquette (cyber bullying) will be incorporated.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5 p.m.



Cynthia Pierfax
Assistant Extension Agent
4-H Youth Development
East Carroll Parish

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Attachments (4)

It is the policy of the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age or disability.