

Madison Teen Advisory Leadership Council Minutes 2013

After having a pizza dinner, the meeting was called to order by Alaysia Hicks, President of the Teen Leadership Club, at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 14, 2013, at the Madison Parish Extension Office. Members present were: Josh Jenkins, Rolanda Rone, Vernecia Wright, Sierra Horsley, Darvella Robinson, Serenity Horsely, Elisia Johnson, Precious Moore, Ma'Kayla Diggs, Malik Phillips, ChaBlique Suluki. Also attending was Markeia Hicks, 2011-12 Teen Leadership Club President.

The pledges were led by Sierra and Serenity Horsely. Following the pledges, members reviewed the Purpose of the Advisory Leadership Committee. Sierra Horsely served as recorder. After reviewing the Roles and Responsibilities, members signed and submitted their service contracts.

The group then discussed the four key issues identified at the last meeting: Volunteers, Funding, Service-Learning and Activities. Several members commented there has been improved communication about 4-H events and activities at school and the flyers are successful. But most felt other means of communication is still needed to attract new members and keep members informed of deadlines. Other discussion included the problem with increasing dues and fees and need for funding to help increase participation. Comments were grouped as follows:

Volunteers & Communication:

- Need more ways to get feedback from youth and adult volunteers
- Get people to use the website more
- Texting is best way to reach youth (Group Me)
- Email works sometimes
- Signs/flyers are good
- Need one-on-one contact with teachers & adults by YOUTH to recruit more school/club sponsors
- Set up a phone chain

Funding:

- Face painting has been successful for some funding to support meetings
- Candy sale important to help with trips
- Need a plate dinner sale
- Car wash
- Raffles for Back-to-School basket
- Have more winners in raffles with smaller prizes (example: pull 5 names for 5 gift cards worth \$25 or \$50 each).

Service-Learning:

- Community Stewardship projects need to be increased
- Like the Christmas Festival face-painting – do more of that sort of thing
- Like the Body Walk and community education programs
- Do a service project every month or bi-monthly.

Activities:

- More peer-to-peer activities
- More collaborations with other groups, like Head Start, clubs and organizations
- Tie fundraising to membership dues and specific trips

As the issues were identified, declining enrollment and the new expectations regarding numbers and participation dominated this discussion. This led to further brainstorming and discussion about what motivates youth to join and participate in 4-H. Members posted and facilitated organization of their remarks into categories as follows:

Social/Recreation:

- Excitement and fun
- Trips
- Social interaction with others in a safe environment
- Meeting new people/networking

Citizenship:

- Increase communication skills
- Develop leadership skills
- Improve goal-setting and decision-making skills
- Learn new things
- Be more responsible
- Learn how to work with others/respect

Service/Community:

- Be helpful and support community projects
- Mentor/tutor other youth
- Reading Days/ read to younger children
- Beautification/environment/clean community
- Helping the needy
- Peer-to-peer activities/dance for kids/talent show for kids

Awards:

- Prizes/stipends for trips
- Scholarships
- Recognition
- Achievement for learning

As members identified the issues or challenges facing the 4-H program, set goals and prioritized them as follows:

- Increase community involvement opportunities throughout the year.
- Offer some just-for-fun activities to get kids motivated and make 4-H better known.
- Emphasize social experiences allowing time for kids to build relationships and learn how to work together.
- Connect learning experiences in a real way (relevant) that is fun and exciting.
- Stress leadership opportunities and expectations
- Recognize participation in community service projects to increase motivation.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.