



## Oklahoma 4-H Youth Development Program

# Building Leaders for Tomorrow

Instilling and developing leadership capabilities in youth and adults.

**AGE LEVEL** – Beginning

**RECOGNITION MODEL** – Cooperation & Participation

**CONCEPT OR SKILL** – Committee work – what is a committee and the various opportunities through committee work

**LIFE SKILL(s) – Heart** – Cooperation, Social Skills, Communication, Accepting Differences, Empathy, Sharing;  
**Hands** – Teamwork & Contribution to group efforts;

**BEHAVIORAL INDICATOR** – Eager to try new things.

## ACTIVITY 13: “Recycled Art”

### THINGS TO KNOW:

Group projects can offer youth a very rewarding experience that teaches youth the positive value of shared decision making and helps them realize that their contributions are worthy and appreciated. Group projects are an opportunity for adult volunteers to facilitate the group process. As a facilitator you do not do for them. Youth are given responsibilities they can be successful in completing. This will vary by age and skill levels. As a facilitator the volunteer will guide by asking questions that encourage the group to seek the answer and make a decision based on the information obtained. As a facilitator you want to be a positive role model who develops good decision making and communication skills, qualities which will follow the youth into adulthood.

Committee work is at the foundation of a successful 4-H club. Members who contribute significantly to the decision making process have ownership and a sense of pride in the club and project. As a facilitator make sure committee members feel welcome and important. Reinforce that each will contribute their talents and time to achieving the group’s goal. Instill with the group members that as a team each member will need to be prepared to attend and actively participate in committee meetings; complete assignments in a timely manner; keep committee members and the advisor informed verbally and in writing. Serving on a committee is like being a member of a basketball team. Each person has a position to play and all other positions rely on the player being in the right place at the right time and doing what they are supposed to.

### Seven reasons why it is important for leaders/committee chairs to delegate

1. To get results.
2. To give someone else growth opportunities.
3. To develop self-motivation in others.
4. To have opportunity for different or more important work.
5. To share decision-making authority.
6. Because the leader lacks time.
7. Because the leader lacks skills.

Delegating is a two-way experience. The leader/chair gains in having more time. The delegatee gains in experience, prestige, satisfaction, creativity, innovation, recognition, and perhaps opportunity for advancement. A successful leader will establish a relationship of trust and mutual understanding with the group. They will limit criticism about the delegatee and how he/she performs. The leader will respect an individual’s time by not delegating on an impulse or at the last minute. They will attempt to match the right person to the right job. Most importantly they will provide recognition to committee members who are successful in completing assigned responsibilities, as well as helping the committee achieve its common goal. This activity is a fun and creative way to introduce and discuss what a committee is, how it functions and the role of committee members. The activity is also a good spring board for talking about communications and even environmental issues.



**Materials Needed:** Any recyclable item that can be used for art. Examples: toilet paper/paper towel rolls, egg cartons, milk cartons, foil, soda cans, can lids, newspaper, string, etc.

**Do:** If you have a large group you may choose to break into smaller groups. Keep the groups large enough that individuals must cooperate and interact. This activity is to simulate committee work. Place recyclable art items on the table, along with one pair of scissors, one bottle of glue, and one tape dispenser. The group challenge is for everyone to work together to create a piece of art or a sculpture that everyone can agree upon. This means sharing supplies without arguing, consulting group members about where to place an art item, possibly planning what will be created before actually making something, etc. When all groups are finished with their art, have everyone take a tour of the art gallery, while artists tell a story about the piece. Another Version – Do not allow members to communicate verbally or in writing. Instruct them that they must be given things and that they cannot take anything. This modification is a good exercise in learning to see/identify the needs of others over your own personal needs.

**Reflect:**

- 1) How did your group decide what to make? How did you choose the pieces to use? How did you decide who would do what?
- 2) Was everyone included in the decision process? If not, why? If so, how?
- 3) What unique thing did each person in the group contribute to the project?
- 4) What things happened in your group that made the project successful? Why? What things were not so successful? Why?
- 5) Was the group able to delegate tasks based on skills and interests? Why can this be important to the success of a project? Can you always serve everyone's requests? 6) How can compromise benefit everyone?

**Apply:**

- 1) Why is being able to work on group projects important to our club?
- 2) How can we apply what we did today to committee work in the future?
- 3) Have the group make a list of "Do's and Don'ts" for committees. Summarize the list and use it for all committee work. Since the young people established the "Do's and Don'ts" for Good Committee Work" they will be much more likely follow them.

**“The best executive is the one who has sense enough to pick good men/women to do what he/she wants done and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.”**

***Theodore Roosevelt***

Source: Jones, Alana. [104 Activities That Build.](#)