

# 4-H Demonstration Tip Sheet

## I. Reasons for Giving a 4-H Demonstration

- A. Self-development (develop poise, self-confidence and the ability to organize and share information).
- B. Opportunity to expand your knowledge, and that of your audience on a given subject (explore supporting evidence).
- C. Acquaint others with 4-H and/or a specific project area.
- D. Gain experience working with people other than your own 4-H club/group.

## II. What Makes a Good Demonstration

- A. Introduction
  1. A friendly greeting
  2. Introduction that:
    - a. catches the listeners attention
    - b. arouses curiosity and interest
    - c. is closely related to subject
- B. Key problems and their helpers
  1. Plan steps carefully with "Key Point" Outline as follows:
    - a. Key problems are the "sore spots" a demonstrator will find troublesome or hard to do.
    - b. Key helpers are "what you do" to make a method clear. Find two or three for each Key Point Problem.
  2. Surprise your audience with something new (a fact, or method).
  3. Tell what you are going to do.
  4. Show what you are going to do.
  5. Do it! Make a summary statement after each Key point.
- C. Conclusion/Summary
  1. Make it snappy and to-the-point!
  2. Review and summarize.
  3. Identify your sources of information.
  4. Distribute any "handout materials".
  5. Ask for questions from audience.
  6. Thank audience.

## III. Good Demonstration Habits

- A. Properties
  1. Prepare a complete list of everything you will need to give your demonstration. **Example:** A food demonstration would include: trays for supplies and utensils, wax paper, apron, damp dish cloth, hand towel, etc.
  2. Have everything needed collected together and ready.
- B. Getting ready for your demonstration
  1. Arrange all equipment/supplies in order of use!
  2. When needed, start time-consuming portions of your demonstration ahead of time. **Example:** Demonstrator making bread will have one loaf of bread made ahead of time to show.
  3. Rehearse complete demonstration in front of a mirror. Work to develop a good "conversational pace" that is neither too fast (i.e. hard for audience to keep up with you), nor too slow (i.e. "drags" on too long; audience loses interest). On average, demonstrations given by younger, junior level members (ages 9-14) should last approximately 5-7 minutes, while demonstrations given by senior level members (15-19) should last approximately 10-12 minutes.

## IV. Giving your Demonstration (After introducing yourself, giving your club and name)

- A. Be sure your audience can see everything. (i.e. Don't obstruct/cover part of your actual demonstration area.)
- B. Be sure everyone in your audience can hear you. Speak up loud and clear!
- C. Use posters, flip charts, samples – anything that will help your audience understand your demonstration more clearly.
- D. Place your visuals at eye-level for your audience.
- E. Be sure charts are easy-to-read, including by those seated at the back of the room.
  1. Only one (1) fact per chart.
  2. Use block letters 2" high.
  3. Use clip art/pictures to add interest/illustrate a point.
- F. Attire should be neat and clean, and appropriate for the type of demonstration selected.