“What Do I Have To Offer?”

2008 Indiana 4-H Youth Congress Lesson Plan
Youth Session C

Presenters: Ashley Schultz, Pandora Woodward

Introduction to Session

We each bring a unique set of skills, abilities, and interests to our 4-H Club. The challenge for our groups is to utilize each other’s differences to make the group stronger as a whole. This session helps us to identify some of the things that make us unique and to show us ways that we can all work together more effectively.

What Motivates You?

10 min

Life Skill: Self-motivation

Description: Get to know yourself first and then communicate with others.


Supplies needed: 8 ½” x 11” signs with “A”, “F”, and “P” (one LARGE letter printed on each sign)

Instructions for Leader:

- Follow instructions found on p. 20 of Mentor Guide, including introduction to topic.
- Have students stand under the appropriate sign that best represents them as you read the various statements.
- Ask a sample of the debriefing questions found on p. 21 of the Mentor Guide.

“Stone Soup” Story

5 min

Life Skill: Working together

Description: If we all give a little, it makes a lot.

Source: Multiple versions are available on the Web

Supplies needed: Copy of story – see below
Instructions for Leader:

- Read the “Stone Soup” story found below.
- Discuss the meaning of the story with the group (see description at end of story).

Stone Soup: A Japanese Parable about Gifting

Once upon a time a tattered traveler came to a small village and asked for something to eat. “No, we have barely enough for ourselves,” said the wary villagers as they started shutting the door. “Then could you spare some water for my pot,” he said with a twinkle in his eye. Producing some ordinary rocks from his pocket, “These magical stones would make a delicious Stone Soup.”

“Stone soup!” the villagers cried, thinking the stranger quite mad. “Who ever heard of stone soup?” Still they gave him the water hoping to get the crazy man away from their village.

Soon a crowd gathered as the traveler built a fire under his large pot of water and reverently added a handful of stones. After a while he tasted a steaming spoonful and sighed, “Hmm.”

“How is it?” the curious villagers asked. “Not bad,” he smiled, “but it’s a shame I don’t have any onions.” A bag of onions was quickly passed forward. Then the traveler said the soup might be good with potatoes, which another villager eagerly gave. Everyone wanted to have a hand in this mysterious soup. Very soon the pot was filled with celery, mushrooms, peas, and barley. Happily, the traveler used them all to cook a delicious soup that fed the whole village.

The villagers were amazed that such a wonderful soup could be made from stones.

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This 16th century Japanese fable has many meanings. It is a lesson in community, that when we join together with a smile and our magical stones, we can create amazing outcomes. It’s about individuals combining their resources in order to create something good for all. It is about reciprocity, the belief that what you give will eventually come back to you in like fashion. It is a story of abundance—when you offer what you think may be meager, there will still be plenty.
**Gifts, Talents, and Treasures**

40 min

**Life Skill:** Identify personal gifts and talents

**Description:** Develop an understanding that everyone has something to offer to the organization.

**Source:** “Exploring Your Gifts, Talents and Treasures”, Kathleen Koch, 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator, Purdue University, kkoch5@purdue.edu

**Supplies needed:**

- Copy of “Exploring Your Gifts, Talents and Treasures”
- Apples (one per person)
- Box
- Knife
- CD cases
- Paper (one sheet per person)
- Scissors
- Markers
- Craft supplies - Foam decorations, glue, stickers, crayons, etc.

**Instructions for Leader:**

- Follow instructions found on “Exploring Your Gifts, Talents and Treasures” resource (see attached) to lead the three activities.
- Provide time for audience to respond to debriefing questions included in each activity.

**Philosophy Lesson**

5 min

**Life Skill:** Recognizing what’s important

**Description:** Identify the people who make a difference in your lives.

**Source:** unknown

**Supplies needed:** Copy of “Philosophy Lesson” (see attached)

**Instructions for Leader:**

- Read “Philosophy Lesson” to group.
- Encourage the group to try to write down the answers to both sets of questions.
- Share the point of the lesson with the group as stated at the end.