

## Planning for Safe Environments

**Objectives:** To encourage clubs to provide environment that are safe (physically, socially, and personally) where all young people can have a positive relationship caring adults for becoming competent, capable caring adults.

**Focus:** Understanding key components needed for youth to feel physically and emotionally safe while participating in a club.

**Activities:** Wagon Wheel and Small Group Discussion

Notes	Actions	What to Say
<p><b>Time:</b> 30 minutes</p> <p><b>Materials:</b> Power Point presentation</p> <p><b>Handouts:</b></p>		<p>4-H is the youth development section of all the land-grant universities, as volunteers, agents and specialists we are responsible for applying what we do to research.</p> <p>The essential elements we focus on include Belonging, Mastery, Independence and Generosity.</p> <p><b>Belonging:</b> Youth need to know they are cared about and accepted by others. Additionally, a sense of physical and emotional safety to feel connected.</p> <p><b>Mastery:</b> Includes the development of skills, knowledge, and attitudes. Youth develop self-confidence through success. Mastery encourages youth to take risks, seek challenges and focus on self-improvement rather than comparing self to others.</p> <p><b>Independence:</b> Youth need to know they are able to influence through decision-making and action. Through independence youth learn responsibility and discipline.</p> <p><b>Generosity:</b> Young people need to live their lives have</p>

<p>Type of Group Environments</p>	<p><b>Wagon Wheel Exercise</b>  Ask participants to find a buddy. Have all participants form two wheels, one buddy on the inside circle and one on the outside circle. What's it like to be a young person?</p>	<p>meaning and purpose. They need opportunities to connect and how to give back. This may include the development of values.</p> <p>Having an understanding of the Youth Development Essential Elements helps us realize how important the club setting or environment influences the 4-H participants. Let's review the <b>our environments:</b></p> <p><b>Physical Environment</b>, those elements that affect the "space".  Meeting Location--accessible?  Meeting Room - accessible?  How the meeting room is set-up - comfortable, visible?  Temperature - comfortable?  Sounds - can people hear?  Safety precautions - clean, free from dangers, lighting?</p> <p><b>Social Environment</b>, the organization and people.  Warm and Friendly?  Behavior - youth, adults?  Trust - Fair?  Cooperation?  Handling conflicts?  Fun?</p>
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	<p>Ask for them to share with each other:  1) Can you remember being an elementary student or high school student...what was it like, what did you do for fun?</p> <p>Now the outside circle, move three to your right.</p> <p>New partner  2) Who or what made a difference for you as a teenager?</p> <p>Open discussion:  What was is like to share?  What made a difference  How can you make a difference?</p>	<p>The personal environment, is the person feel safe, at ease, that they belong?</p> <p>Clubs need to take a look at themselves are they inviting, inclusive and make other feel valuable or they are cliquish, competitive with others, or defensive.</p> <p>What would club what visitors to say about them?</p> <p>Providing a safe environment and how we manage a safe environment is risk management. When securing a safe environment other safety precautions to consider:  -the location structure  -Unexpected risks  Insurance coverage  First aid kits  Emergency plans  -VIP  -4-H Participation Form  Availability of forms</p>
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