

Grant County Promotion and Expansion Minutes

The Grant County 4-H Promotion and Expansion Committee met March 12, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. Committee members introduced themselves and explained how they were tied to 4-H and the Grant County community.

Members present were: Kiera Leddy, Michaela DeWald, Sam Jarman, Dawn Vander Wal, Mary Kinder, Amy Van Lith, Jeff Loutsch, Dale Tuchscherer, Lowell Boe, Joan Czmowski and Sara Koepke.

Sara explained the handouts passed out about the policy and roles of the committee. Adults and teens are able to serve a maximum of a three-year term. Also, she mentioned that one person from the committee will need to serve as the 4-H Association Liaison. The 4-H Association meets quarterly; the primary responsibilities of the association are maintenance of the fairgrounds and providing financial assistances to the Grant County 4-H Program.

The meeting began with discussing current and possible youth programming. Programs involved are 4-H, Shooting Sports, Robotics, OST, Strengthening Families, and the Library Reading Program. Sara imposed the question of how can some of these programs assist youth needs, interest and concerns. Kiera Leddy mentioned to reach youth at the elementary to gain their interest and Jeff Loutsch added that it's hard to retain their interest when they get older. Agreement was that youth think 4-H is all about livestock and talked about how about we can provide programs like Shooting Sports to attract their attention.

Jeff mentioned that Grant County offers a Library Reading Program and thought 4-H could offer an incentive to those youth involved in the program to attend Achievement Days, like a free ice cream sandwich at the Lunchstand.

There was a lot of discussion about the Shooting Sports program and how youth do not need to be involved in 4-H to participate. There were ideas brought about offering summer programs and talking to Mr. Olson about getting the word about 4-H Shooting Sports during Physical Education.

When it comes to programs, agreement was that there needs to be more advertising. Kiera and Sam Jarman mentioned that we could contact the school to place items on the media reel. We can continue to utilize KMSD for radio spots and Grant County Review for press releases. Another comment was made about utilizing the Milbank Area Chamber of Commerce and ITC electronic signs.

Another topic discussed was strategies to reach all youth and how we can incorporate different youth organizations to mesh. Dawn Vander Wal said there was a Farmer Olympics held at last year's Achievement Days. She mentioned that it went well but could be improved with more advertising and precise organization. There was discussion about incorporating 4-H, FFA, Boy and Girl Scouts, and sports organization to form a team. This will allow youth to meet other kids from the different youth organizations in the county.

The ball continued to roll on possibly planning a summer activity, which would be Farmer Olympics, and a winter activity with other youth organizations. During the winter, we could offer a lock-in at Unity Square, Family Fun Night or Youth Fair, which would bring in youth organizations to hold a demonstration that deals with their particular organization. This would allow youth to get a feel what each organization does.

To wrap up the meeting, Sara encouraged committee members to think of ideas for next meeting and think of recommendations on programs to implement.

The next meeting will be held June 11th at 7 pm at the Courthouse Community Room.