

Club Disbanding or Splitting

From time to time it becomes necessary for 4-H club members, volunteers, or Extension Educators to determine if a club should continue functioning. Unfortunately, these decisions are sometimes emotionally driven and present challenges to those involved.

There are two primary questions that arise when a club is either disbanding completely or when a group of youth/parents/volunteers decide to split-off and start their own club.

4-H Club Name:

1. In instances where the club is splitting (i.e. group of youth/adults/volunteers state a new club), the club name will always stay with the original group. In other words, those that start the new club must identify a new club name.
2. In instances where the club is disbanding, the 4-H club name then is no longer in use. If another new group or existing group wishes to use the former club name, that is certainly acceptable.

4-H Funds:

1. If a club disbands or splits, they are then to follow existing 4-H Youth Development policy which states as follows:
 - a. If a 4-H club disbands the funds in the club treasury should be given to a worthy cause. If possible the club should decide on the cause. Examples: County 4-H Committee, 4-H County Endowment Account, 4-H Camp Development Fund, Ohio 4-H Foundation, Charity, etc.
 - b. If a club votes to divide, the treasury should be divided upon membership with equal shares per member going to the respective club treasury.
 - c. If a club is divided without mutual agreement and can not decide on division of the treasury, the problem should be referred to the County 4-H Committee and County 4-H Youth Development Educator.
2. While not a 4-H policy, individual 4-H members should not be given money to keep for themselves in an effort to resolve a dispute regarding final distribution of funds.

Materials & Property:

1. Club members and volunteers shall work with the County 4-H Youth Development Educator in regards to distribution of property. The following will serve as guidelines:
 - a. When a club splits, property will remain with the existing club and not transfer to the new club.
 - b. When a club disbands and there is disagreement on distribution of owned materials, the owned materials will be given to the County 4-H Committee who will work with the County 4-H Educator to make a final determination of distribution.
 - c. At no time shall individual 4-H members be given materials in an effort to distribute them upon a club disbanding or splitting.