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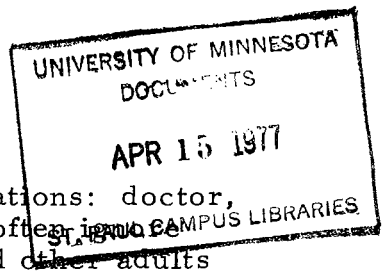
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HELPING 4-H'ERS FIND THE RIGHT DIRECTIONS

A GUIDE FOR YOUTH LEADERS

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE--UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Most high school students focus their attention on a few occupations: doctor, lawyer, engineer, teacher, nurse, secretary. Young people often ignore many other kinds of work that our society needs. Leaders and other adults need to help youth develop the attitude that any job that is suited to them and is useful to society is worthy of respect and approval.

Past experience suggests that doing worthwhile work for pay gives the adolescent a feeling that he is learning and growing personally. It constitutes evidence of his worth as a person.

Before deciding on an occupation, the 4-H'er should thoroughly explore a variety of things. As a leader, you can ask your 4-H'er if he or she has done these things:

1. Explored a range of career opportunities and some of the alternatives that might be open to him?
2. Obtained information from:
 - high school counselor?
 - libraries?
 - people in occupations?
 - State Department of Manpower Services (requesting specific career material)?
 - companies that employ trained people?
3. Had enough help in looking at job requirements and matching these with the skills and abilities he possesses?
4. Made an appraisal of himself, including both strengths and weaknesses?
5. Weighed such factors as preparation time needed, cost of obtaining training, fringe benefits, supply and demand, job health hazards, job hours, and number of employees?

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

- * Interview a number of workers in different kinds of jobs. Use a job satisfaction questionnaire.
- * Invite a personnel manager or vocational counselor from a large company to discuss the relationship of mental health to work.

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- * Have members act out an interview and let the club decide if the person gets the job.
- * Use the yellow pages of the telephone book or educational ads in a newspaper to make a list of out-of-school educational and vocational opportunities available in your community and area.
- * Submit inquiries to local trade and union organizations. Find out what opportunities and restrictions exist in preparing for a skilled trade; i. e., masonry, carpentry.
- * Invite the local manager of Department of Manpower Services to discuss job opportunities.
- * Invite women holding a variety of jobs to discuss the educational background, advantages, and disadvantages of their jobs.
- * Invite local union members to explain union memberships and to discuss job requirements and advancements within unions.
- * Have teams talk with several personnel officers and report back to the club.
- * Have club members tape record interviews with several employees concerning their job days. Play tapes to club.
- * Have club members talk to a variety of workers. Have them ask how many jobs they've held.
- * Obtain from a personnel director the names of employees who have been most successful in moving up the job ladder. Note and discuss factors that enabled them to advance on the job.
- * Plan a visit to an area vocational-technical school, junior college, or 4-year college.