Jigsaw Puzzle 4-H Club Activity

Objective: Youth will recognize the importance of teamwork to successfully reach goals.

Materials: Several jigsaw puzzles (35-50 pieces)
News print and markers

Procedure:
- **Break youth into small groups.**
  Give each group a jigsaw puzzle. Have each group put their puzzle together, and as they work together ask them to think about how the pieces and the process relate to club members and to conducting a team meeting. Also, ask them to consider how the completed project looks like a meeting that was fun and successful.

- **Make a list.**
  List all the ways that putting the puzzle together and the finished puzzle are similar to an effective, fun team that works together at a 4-H meeting. Have each group record their responses on newsprint to share with the group.

- **Gather ideas for discussion.**
  Each group will have its list of unique ideas. Below are some discussion ideas and questions for making a connection between the different parts of the puzzle and their relation to a club meeting. Have fun!

- **Discuss how club meetings are similar to the jigsaw puzzle.**
  Example: Each individual piece (4-H member) is a part of the puzzle and each piece (4-H member) is needed to complete the puzzle (meeting). Everyone is needed to do his or her part at a 4-H meeting.

- **Find the boundaries.**
  What are some of the boundaries or guide lines of your 4-H meetings?

- **Locate any gaps.**
  When the puzzle is complete, it has no gaps. What kinds of gaps do you see in your 4-H club meetings? What is something you would like to see improved at your club meetings?
• **Find the connections.**
  Pieces are highly connected. What are some ways your 4-H club is interconnected?

• **Notice differences.**
  Each piece is unique. What are some unique things about your 4-H club? Who are some of the unique people who help with your 4-H meetings?

• **Look for natural groupings.**
  (For example, color.) What are some groupings in your club? What are some ways that make you feel like you are a part of the 4-H group? What are some things you could do to make a new member feel like he or she is a part of the group? How can you make all members feel like they are important parts of your 4-H club?

• **Find the motivator.**
  The puzzle pieces need someone to move them. Who motivates or makes assignments in your club meetings? How does that happen?

**Additional Process/Discussion Questions:**

• What can each of you do to work toward having fun, creative, effective meetings?
• What happens when everyone doesn’t do his or her part?
• What are some changes that you would like to work on at your club meetings?
• What do you like best about 4-H meetings?

Adapted from: *Welcome to 4-H!!! Basics for New Leaders.* Aufdenkamp. UNL Extension