

# CONDUCT A WORKSHOP

Leaders may wish to develop a public speaking workshop over a period of several meetings, or emphasize it in a one day session. However the workshop is designed, it is important to consider what the participants **want** or **need** to know. It is best to determine needs **ahead** of the workshop. This will decide the content of your sessions. It's best to start with activities you feel confident in handling. Proceed with enthusiasm - it's contagious!

Consider the following questions:

1. How much experience do the participants have in public speaking.
2. How old are they?
3. Are the members shy, brave, outspoken, quiet or a range of all.
4. Has anyone mentioned what they'd like to see included in the workshop?
5. What are you willing to attempt.



In the workshop, the leader should introduce public speaking to the group. What is it? Why do we do it? What format should a 4-H member follow? You may wish to formally introduce public speaking before trying any activities with the members.

Try these ideas to encourage confidence in public speaking at a club meeting or workshop.

**Short speeches** - Topics for a two to four minute speech could be assigned at the workshop or meeting, to be presented at a later time.

**Charades** - Each person writes the name of a book, movie, T.V. show, or song on a piece of paper (be sure they write under the title whether it is a book, movie, etc.) Put the titles in a hat. One person draws a title and acts out one word at a time, using no sound. They must first indicate whether it is a song, book, T.V. show and pretending to look through a movie camera for a movie.

Members should indicate whether it is the first word, second word, etc., and begin acting it out. They continue until someone from the audience guesses the title, the next person in line then goes and draws a title and acts it out. This is really fun and good practice.

In the early stages of confidence development, you could do this as a group of two to five persons. Remember the need to have this exercise be fun and positive for the participants.

**The Mind's Eye** - In a small group of four to six fold a piece of paper, drop some ink in the crease, then press the paper to get strange shapes. Take turns explaining the strange shape you have created. What is it? What can it do? What do you use it for? Take turns explaining your paper design.

**You Don't Know What You Are Talking About** - Arrange everyone in a semi-circle and tell them that you are going to select several speakers from among them. Each speaker talks for two minutes on a subject about which he knows absolutely nothing! He or she must keep on talking on this subject and the more nonsense he talks, the better and funnier it will be for the audience. This may be suitable for more advanced members.

Some nonsense subjects to consider talking about:

- The sewer system in Moscow
- Problems of gardening on the moon.
- How many dados are on the average lino and why there are not more?
- Seaweed is practical for stuffing upholstery.

Here are some really abstract topics:

- And after all, if so, why not?
- It is and it isn't depending on whether it is or not.
- Why we seldom say "always" and why we never say "maybe".
- Is it colder in the winter than it is in the city?

All these exercise should help to get your members speaking in public and enjoying it! Use them for get acquainted exercises or just for a few laughs. And create some of your own!