

MODEL

AIRPLANES

LEADERS' GUIDE

Cooperative Extension **University of California**
Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources

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4-H AEROSPACE PROGRAM LEADERS' GUIDE

Objectives

1. Create an awareness in youth of the basic concepts of space science and aeronautics.
2. Develop in youth interest and awareness of the impact of the aerospace program on society.
3. Give youth the opportunity to develop skills and explore areas of interest in the aerospace program.
4. Provide youth with the opportunity to explore various aerospace careers.
5. Help youth realize the growing interdependence of people through aerospace developments and related fields.
6. Provide experiences in aerospace science that will enhance the responsible growth of the individual and lead to productive citizenship.

YOUR JOB AS A LEADER

The Challenge

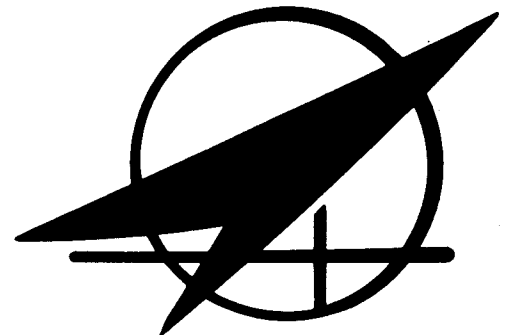
Your responsibility as a leader is both a challenge and an opportunity. Yours is a key position in the 4-H program. If you enjoy working with young people, you will find that working

with the aerospace program is most rewarding. You'll find great satisfaction in watching boys and girls develop new knowledge and skills under your guidance.

Today's generation has accepted the importance of aerospace. This acceptance, however, has caused many changes in the social, economic, and political environment of the entire world. These changes provide an opportunity for educational institutions to create learning experiences within the many segments of aerospace education and its related sciences.

The 4-H aerospace program gives youth an opportunity to become interested in and aware of aerospace experiences. These experiences lead to further development of the individual's interest, skills, and career goals. This development enhances the responsible growth of the individual helping him or her become a productive citizen in society.

A successful leader is the person who has the confidence of the group; keeps ahead of them, yet seems always with them and understands their viewpoint; and is tolerant, patient, and sympathetic in working with them. Recognizes work well done in such a way that young people will be encouraged to do even better, makes friendly suggestions instead of displaying authority, and provides situations that will increase responsibilities as



4-H AEROSPACE PROGRAM

they become more experienced. Each boy or girl is an individual with his or her own background, personality, talents, experience, and aspirations. Your own activity will be varied as you help members plan their own programs, attend their meetings, give guidance to their training, help plan tours and field trips, and help members have fun.

You don't have to do the job without help. Others in your community will be glad to assist. In addition, older club members can serve as teen leaders and junior leaders.

GETTING ORGANIZED

The first step is to get several individuals interested in model airplanes. These individuals could: meet together to form a formal 4-H club, be a part of an existing 4-H club, join together merely for a special interest group, or serve as individuals with a leader for assistance. The informal activity of a few persons can serve as a basis for getting more members interested.

When the individual members are enrolled in your club or group, you must remember that the primary purpose of the meeting is for development of skills. Any good organization will function best when some activity keeps the group together above and beyond the club's primary purpose. Club meetings should be well planned. The first ones will set the pattern for the group's future success. The prospective leader, parent, committee, or other interested persons should assist in planning the first meeting and making sure that it becomes an exciting experience for all involved.

Some basic ideas for planning a get-acquainted meeting and following meetings are:

- * Arrange for a suitable time and place for the meeting.
- * Invite families, prospective members, and parents.
- * Check plans with others concerned.
- * Announce the meeting at community gatherings, schools, in newspapers, on radio or posters, or by invitation.
- * Outline the first meeting carefully. This key meeting will set the example for all the following meetings.
- * If you are not experienced in working with youth, get help from experienced 4-H club members and leaders or an extension agent, if possible.
- * If you are organizing a 4-H club, briefly review what 4-H club work is, what the 4-H member does, and the role of the parent, leader, and extension agent. If this is a special interest group only, it would still be best to know what each member should do and how the parents and others can assist.
- * Explain the value of having the group involved in aviation. Discuss projects that fit the needs, interests, time, and abilities of the individuals. Encourage them to take on no more than what they feel they can handle adequately.

On follow-up meetings, planning is very important. Discuss club activities, events, meetings, tours to be taken, and what the members will do. The group members should be involved in planning future meetings and activities. In a special interest group, the members may be interested only in attending and working on their models and then later flying them. The group should participate in other activities related to aviation to broaden the outlook and education of the members.

TEACHING AND SUPERVISING

You can use various teaching methods. Choose the one that is suited to the subject and allows the members to participate

actively in the learning process. If you arrange for an outsider to teach at a meeting, be sure he understands that boys and girls learn more by doing something than by just sitting and listening. It is easier to get help teaching if you can give your volunteer a concise outline, including the degree of learning desired by the club members.

As you lead, you also must be aware and create an awareness in your members of safety. Maintain that "Safety First" attitude in model flying. Without good safety built into this system, your program will be in trouble. You must supervise your members constantly throughout all phases of their model construction and flying.

ACTIVITIES

Many activities, from the first handling of the model under construction to the actual flying and observation in flight, will enhance the learning. The wide range of activities possible in aviation gives every member a chance to experience real achievement and success.

The imagination and ability of the group will determine the activity possibilities. The members must be given an opportunity to organize and carry out the activity without depending on others.

Field Trips—Field trips to military bases and private and commercial airports are informative. Tours of manufacturing plants, tracking stations, or other interesting facilities could prove useful.

Demonstration Days—These actual flying demonstrations may be opportunities for the club to sponsor programs.

Duration Events—involves how high, how long it stays up.

Scale Events—judge how well the contestants were able to keep their models within scale.

Special Events—are races, exhibits, dog fights, or shows.

Design Contests—determine the best design in various categories.

Other activities include research programs. This is limited only by the imagination and ambition of the member.

The club could begin to establish a library of assorted materials dealing with aviation. These are available from many sources such as:

- * American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, New York 10010.
- * National Aerospace Education Council, Suite 310, Shorham Building, 806 15th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.
- * Paul K. Guillow Company, Wakefield, Massachusetts 01880.
- * Model Airplane News.
- * Local Hobby Shop.

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