

Sportsmanship: Role Play



Audience:

All ages

Topic:

Demonstrating good sportsmanship

Objectives:

- ▶ Compare good and bad sportsmanship
- ▶ Recognize the behaviors associated with good and bad sportsmanship
- ▶ Describe the importance of good sportsmanship

Time required:

15-60 minutes

Materials required:

- Scissors
- Role Play Scenarios handout

Activity:

Before the youth arrive, the leader can use scissors to cut apart the Role Play Scenarios handout on the dotted lines.

Leader should choose one (or more) scenarios from the Role Play Scenarios handout. Each scenario will require at least two youth to role play (one side will model good sportsmanship while the other will model poor sportsmanship). After giving each youth their portion of the scenario, they should be allowed approximately five minutes to prepare for the role play. Reflection questions should follow each role play.

Reflection Questions:

- ▶ *Did you feel comfortable in your position in the role-play scenario?*
- ▶ *How do you think you would have acted naturally if you encountered that scenario?*
- ▶ *Does this activity make you think differently about how you model good sportsmanship?*
- ▶ *How can you apply good sportsmanship in your everyday life?*
- ▶ *What situations make it difficult to apply good sportsmanship?*

Adapted from Penn State.

HANDOUT:

Role Play Scenarios

Role plays about conduct

Role play 1a: High standards of behavior

- ▶ One member acts as the person registering people for the event.
- ▶ Another member demonstrates how a contestant should act when he or she arrives at the event and approaches the registration area. The contestant should be pleasant, ask questions politely, and say please and thank you.

Role play 1b: Poor behavior

- ▶ One member acts as the person registering people for the event.
- ▶ Another member demonstrates how a contestant should not act when he or she arrives at the event and approaches the registration area.

Role plays about fairness

Role play 2a: Showing sportsmanship through fairness

- ▶ One member acts as a news reporter.
- ▶ Another member demonstrates how a participant should act when explaining to a reporter what members in his project category did for their projects. The participant should explain the project requirements and what the judges are looking for, and should talk about the projects and other participants fairly.

Role play 2b: Poor sportsmanship—being unfair

- ▶ One member acts as a news reporter.
- ▶ Another member demonstrates how a participant should not act when explaining to a reporter what members in her project category did for their projects. The participant may brag about the work done by the kids in his club but ridicule that done by kids from other clubs. The participant also might complain that she didn't have as much time to work on her project as the other kids did, when in fact everyone had the same 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Role Play Scenarios, continued

Role plays about honesty

Role play 3a: Showing sportsmanship through honesty

- ▶ One member acts as the judge.
- ▶ Another member demonstrates how a participant should act when explaining honestly to the judge what she did in her project.

Role play 3b: Poor sportsmanship—being dishonest

- ▶ One member acts as the judge.
- ▶ Another member demonstrates an example of cheating or dishonesty when explaining to the judge what he or she did in his project. For example, he or she might take someone else's project and try to pass it off as his or her own. He or she also might show something that obviously was made from a kit or purchased and tell the judge that not only did he or she make it, but he or she also designed the pattern and made the material him- or herself! Or he or she might cheat in little ways, like saying that he or she is 13 so he or she can compete in a junior class, when he or she is actually 14. Even worse, he or she might think of a way that someone might actually try to cheat in his project category and then act it out for your group.

Role plays about competition

Role play 4a: Showing sportsmanship in competition

- ▶ Two members sit next to each other and role play a sportsmanlike conversation between two participants. They should explain what they did in their projects, compliment each other on the things they admire about the other's exhibit, and make helpful suggestions for how they might improve their exhibits.

Role play 4b: Showing poor sportsmanship in competition

- ▶ Two members sit next to each other and role play an unsportsmanlike conversation between two participants. The mean-spirited participants should lie to each other about what they did in their respective projects and try to convince each other to change something about their exhibit that would actually make the exhibit look worse to the judge.

Role Play Scenarios, continued

Role plays about courtesy

Role play 5a: Showing courtesy

- ▶ One member plays the part of the program organizer.
- ▶ Another member plays the part of a participant who shows courtesy in asking if fans could be brought in or if part of the class could be excused to get a drink of water since the room is so hot.

Role play 5b: Poor sportsmanship—being rude

- ▶ One member plays the part of the program organizer.
- ▶ Another member plays the part of a participant who is rude in asking if part of the class could be excused to get a drink of water since the room is so hot. He or she should tell the organizer that his or her parents think she's an idiot for scheduling the program on such a hot day and threaten that he or she and his buddies will just walk out if something isn't done to cool the place down immediately, etc.

Role play 6a: Showing sportsmanship when relating to others

- ▶ One member plays the part of a spectator who doesn't know about 4-H competitive programs and who wants to talk with a participant to learn more about them.
- ▶ Another member plays the part of a participant who shows sportsmanship in responding to the spectator's questions and excusing herself when it's her turn to be judged.

Role play 6b: Being unsportsmanlike when relating to others

- ▶ One member plays the part of a spectator who doesn't know about 4-H competitive programs and who wants to talk with a participant to learn more about them.
- ▶ Another member plays the part of a participant who lacks sportsmanship in responding to the spectator's questions and excusing him- or herself when it's his or her turn to be judged. For example, he or she might tell the person sarcastically that if he or she read his local newspaper occasionally he'd know the answers to his dumb questions or tell him or her that he or she's just too busy to bother with anybody who isn't a judge, etc.

Role Play Scenarios, continued

Role plays about graceful acceptance of results

Role play 7a: Behaving gracefully as an individual

- ▶ One member acts friendly, thoughtful, and kind while explaining to the group what the judges said during the interview. He or she should explain that they started off with easy questions that helped him or her feel at ease and then moved on to tougher questions that really made him think. He or she should discuss the fact that he or she didn't know the answers to some of the questions and maybe even acknowledge that he or she did not learn as much in his project as he or she could have. He or she should close with comments about what he or she did learn and what he or she liked about the experience.

Role play 7b: Behaving disgracefully as an individual

- ▶ Another member throws a tantrum while explaining to the group what the judges said during the interview. She should fuss that they started off with easy questions that made her feel at ease but that they then blindsided her with tough questions that no "normal" person could possibly have answered! She should complain that her advisor should have made sure that she knew what was in the project book and that it wasn't her fault that she didn't win.

Role play 8a: Showing sportsmanship in accepting results as a family

- ▶ One member announces the winners.
- ▶ Another member plays a responsible parent.
- ▶ Someone else plays a competitor who shows sportsmanship in accepting results.

When the winners are announced, the parent should show concern with a statement to the competitor, such as, "I hoped you would win this year. I wonder why they picked those other kids?"

The competitor should respond with comments that show acceptance of the results, such as, "They had a nice project" or "I talked with them, and they really had studied and knew their stuff" or "I don't know, but the judge's questions were thorough. I bet they did better in their interviews than I did in mine."

The parent should respond with appropriate comments, such as, "Maybe so. Next time, would you like me to quiz you on the project?" and "I'm proud of you for realizing that no one can always be the best and that other people will sometimes do better than you."

Role play 8b: Showing poor sportsmanship in accepting results as a family

- ▶ One member plays the part of an announcer of winners.
- ▶ Another member plays the part of a parent who thinks his main job is to be an advocate for his child.
- ▶ Someone else plays the part of a competitor who lacks sportsmanship in accepting results.

When the winners are announced, the parent should show concern with a statement to the competitor such as, "I hoped you would win this year. I wonder why they picked those other kids?"

The competitor should respond with unsportsmanlike comments that downplay the results such as "I don't know, but nobody could have studied harder than I did. They probably cheated. I was gypped!" or "Who cares, the judge probably knew the winners' parents. The rest of us didn't have a chance" or "It's not fair! After I didn't know the answers to two questions, the judge didn't ask me anything else and spent ten minutes each talking to the kids who won!" and "If I had spent as much money as the winners, I could have won, too!"

The parent should get angry and march the participant out of the room or up to the judge.