Experiential Learning Model – Questions to ask at Each Stage

The 4-H slogan is to “Learn by Doing”. Our positive youth development phrase for this practice is experiential learning. This is the diagram of the experiential learning model.

You can also think of the steps in the following phrases of:
1. Experience- “Do it”
2. Share- “What happened”
3. Process- “What’s important”
4. Generalize- “So what”
5. Apply- “Now what”

The reflection on and application of experiences, steps 2-5, can often get left out because we’re so excited to move on to the next experience. But don’t miss this as it is crucial to the learning! Take time during your project meetings to incorporate all steps of the process.

You can guide this process by asking questions. By asking youth questions about what they are doing and the process, you are engaging their brain in a different way.

Both Iowa State University Extension and University of Missouri Extension have developed great resources that give many examples of the questions you can incorporate in each stage of the process. You certainly wouldn’t ask all of these questions, especially if looking at the resource from MO, but try posing some of these questions at your next meeting and see what happens.

"Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand."

Mid-Year Check-In

Many projects are half way through, or more, of their ‘project year’. April is a great time to check-in with project members and see how they are progressing towards the goal they set for themselves for the project this year. Are they on track!? Great! If not, what can you do to support them to meet this goal or adjust it appropriately?

If the club or countywide project has certain expectations that youth must meet in order to have the privilege of representing Washington County 4-H at County Fair, it’s good to check-in to see if they are on track for meeting these expectations.