

The Reporter

Reporting 4-H news can be an exciting adventure, and it could be the beginning of a new and exciting career. The 4-H reporter has the privilege and opportunity of telling others about 4-H. Newspaper editors like news stories about 4-H because their readers like to know what young people are doing.

For your club or council to obtain the support, respect, and goodwill of the people in the community, it is important for you to keep them aware of the good work done by your club or council. To do this, your reports must be factual and must answer the questions of “Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How.”

To be news, a 4-H event must be one or more of the following: (1) recent, (2) important, (3) close to the place of publication, (4) unusual, and (5) interesting. It must always be accurate.

Duties of the Reporter

- Spread the business of 4-H and your club or council to the people.
- Write a report of each 4-H meeting immediately following the meeting and mail it or take it to the local newspaper editor as soon as possible. Send a copy to your county Extension Office as well. Remember that old news is worse than no news.
- Make a collection of clippings and news items concerning your club or council for the permanent record.
- Write articles and take photographs of special 4-H events for your local newspaper.
- Serve as chairman of the publicity committee.

Suggestions for a Good News Story



- Type your story.
- Put your name, address, and phone number at the top of the page.
- Double space.
- Leave wide margins at the left and right.
- Write stories in the third person (he, she, they).
- Keep sentences short.
- Leave out personal opinions.
- Be sure all names are spelled correctly.
- State the most important or most interesting fact in the first paragraph. In the following paragraphs, give the information in the order of importance.
- Keep paragraphs short (not over 40 to 50 words).
- If possible, submit good pictures with your stories.
- Visit the local newspaper office and radio and TV stations to find out what news writers want and will use.
- Recognize that your story may be cut or changed (or not used at all). Remember the reporter’s A-B-C’s: Be Accurate! Be Brief! Be Concise!

