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So You Are Song Leader of Your Club
Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service
4-H Club Bulletin
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so
you
are

A musical staff with a treble clef and several notes is shown on the left. On the right, four test tubes are arranged vertically, with the musical staff lines passing through them, suggesting a connection between music and science or a metaphorical link.

**SONG
LEADER
OF YOUR CLUB**



**4-H—YOUTH PROGRAMS
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**

510 C-6

Who can Lead?

1. Anyone who loves music and people and who possesses a sense of pitch, sense of rhythm, sense of fitness, contagious enthusiasm, feeling for moods, willingness to share.
2. Someone who believes that singing can be
—a force for drawing people together,
—a means of promoting fellowship,
—a method for teaching music appreciation,
—a relief from tensions,
—a learning experience,
—a source of inspiration.
3. Someone who does *not* need to
—be an expert musician,
—pump water or thrash his arms,
—warble like a lyric soprano,

Make Singing Fun

1. Use a variety of songs.
2. Emphasize the harmony or rhythm which makes any song have appeal.
3. Include the entire audience (exclude no one).
4. Draw attention to the song, not the song leader.
5. Hum or whistle songs occasionally.
6. Have members clap rhythm when suitable.
7. Draw out leadership from group.
8. Provide opportunity for creative expression.
9. Teach new songs — sing through first; if song is long, learn a line at a time.
10. Let your hands speak for you.

Timely Tips

1. Study your group.
2. Prepare songs beforehand.

3. Plan for accompanist (especially if your voice is not strong).
4. Have a file of songs available.
5. Plan for the time allowed.
6. Use definite signal for starting, stopping.
7. Start where you are with something all know.
8. Have group sit up, sing out, and follow your leadership.
9. Stand where everyone sees you — exaggerate your facial expressions.
10. Get as close to everyone as possible.
11. Give clear instructions — an accurate pitch.
12. Encourage singing with feeling rather than loudness.
13. Praise rather than scold — keep a working contact.
14. Have a “spare” ready.
15. Laugh off your mistakes, work for enthusiasm.
16. Encourage new songs — give background stories when possible.
17. Avoid over-use of novelty songs, or parodies which might be in bad taste.
18. Ask for requests (hear those that are best).
19. Have high standards, but understandable ones.
20. Spot exceptional voices; use them.
21. Divide group several ways for rounds.
22. Have “surprise songs” occasionally.
23. Watch for new ideas.
24. Get the feeling of your group, talk only as necessary to do a good job.
25. Practice a round with the entire group first — be sure to indicate number of times to be sung through.

Songs To Use

Variety — This depends on the real objectives of your session. Here are a few samples of several kinds.

Openers: — “Hello, Hello”, “Vive L’Amour”

Favorites: —“Home on the Range”, “Long, Long Trail”

Patriotic: —“America”, “Star Spangled Banner”

Folk: —“Walking at Night”, “Kuckuck”

Action: —“My Hat”, “Deep and Wide”

Round: —“Row Your Boat”, “The Swan Sings”

Stunt: —“Orchestra Song”, “Nursery Rhyme Song”

4-H: —“National 4-H Pledge”, “Place in the Sun”

Stretcher: —“Noble Duke of York”, “Head, Shoulders,
Knees and Toes”

Spirituals: —“Kum Ba Yah”, “Rocka My Soul”

Hymns: —“I Would be True”, “Holy, Holy, Holy”

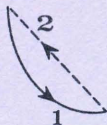
Others: _____

Start with a song everyone knows. Finish with one of your best. Those in between can be newer ones which will give needed variety.

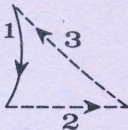
Hand Motions

1. Feel the rhythm beat —don't worry about exact pattern.
2. For new or difficult songs, use hands at level of musical notes.
3. Softer hand motions —cradle, palms down.
4. Louder hand motions —fists, palms up.
5. P —soft; F —loud; M —moderately; < —crescendo;
> —diminish; ◌ —hold.
6. Signals for starting: Hands up.
7. Signals for stopping: Cut off, dial off, tie a bow, drop hands.
8. Clapping and action songs actually help others to lead.

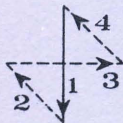
9. Simple time patterns often used:



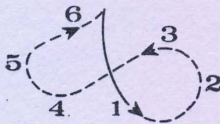
2/4 time



3/4 time



4/4 time



6/8 time

Transitions

Appropriate songs, well chosen, can move a group from quiet-time to hilarity or vice versa. Final song of three or four used for this purpose should be in keeping with the mood of the coming event.

Situations

Sometimes other factors affect your choice of what to use and test your skills as a leader. Can you handle these?

1. Someone singing off-key, deliberately or otherwise.
2. Someone who knows a different version and won't sing yours.
3. Talkers in rear of group.
4. Groaners who oppose anything you propose.
5. Disturbing noises; traffic, trains, etc.

Some Good Sources

Sing Along—96 pages 30c, MSU, State 4-H—Youth Office East Lansing, Mich. 48823

Sing—96 pages, 50c, American Camping Assoc., Martinsville, Ind. 46151

Twice 55 Series—Sunny-Birchard Pub. Co., 1834 Ridge Ave., Evanston, Ill. 60204

Tent and Trail Songs—80 pages, 30c, Cooperative Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio 43015

National 4-H Song Book—96 pages, 40c, National 4-H Supply Service, 59 East Van Buren St., Chicago, Ill. 60605