

4-H LLAMA
LEADER'S GUIDE

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

4-H LLAMA LEADER'S GUIDE

The purpose of the llama project is to teach 4-H members essential life skills while successfully raising a llama or llamas and to enable those members to practice the skills they have learned. If as a llama project leader you hold a meeting once a month, your youth members will learn faster and be more successful. All project meetings should include some of the following things: individual and group member goals, record book keeping, demonstrations, animal quality assurance, fitting and showing, judging, training, equipment care and other related project activities.

4-H LLAMA PROJECT

The 4-H llama project is designed around, raising and caring for a llama. The 4-H member will need to set aside a certain amount of time each day in order to properly care for his or her llama. As each year passes, knowledge of the project as with all projects will grow. You might have senior members in your club, who are taking the llama project for the first time, don't expect them to have the same project knowledge, as a second year junior.

TYPES OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE LLAMA PROJECT

Listed here are some of the activities from which a 4-H member might show an interest. One, fitting and showing is mandatory at all fairs so it will become a necessity in your project teachings, some others, trail obstacle, public relations obstacle, packing or individual handler showing. Each as with anything requires different training methods.

LLAMA PROJECT MEETINGS

Suggested meeting outlines are presented, yet because your 4-H members are made up of different age groups each dealing with a different part of the project, you might find it a difficult task without some help. If you have older 4-H members, intermediates and seniors who have already gone through projects that the younger members are doing, empower your older youth to do the teaching. This will provide you time for individual attention with those that might need it. More importantly it provides a vehicle to have the older member mentor to the younger member, while building confidence within themselves. The amount of material on llamas is great, and one can only cover so much each year, so this guideline is just that a guideline. You may have already found the best way for you, to teach, then this is for your older members to use in teaching the younger members.

4-H RECORD BOOKS

The 4-H record book is not required in Washington, yet we would all like to see them done. As the 4-H year begins on October 1 and ends on September 30, a record book provides the history of a 4-H member. The record book is set up in a certain order and has specific pages for different activities. A page for, the 4-H planning calendar, one for projects and goal setting. A project diary, which has in it all that a member, has done in the year including how they dealt with their llama. Then of course there is the permanent record book, project related materials, 4-H story, memories and a comment page. Lots of pages to be filled out, yet it really is nothing more than a diary of a members, year in 4-H. A hand written history, which shows progress development and life skill development

As the 4-H member, adds her or his project and annual records to the permanent record book, growth in their project and as a 4-H member are summarized over the years.

Record books are due in county offices generally in the month of September, there are always exception to this. Some counties require record books to be in their offices at an earlier time for county fair activities, such as judging books etc., check in your county for the correct due date for record books.

SPECIAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Projects meetings, unlike main club meetings, offer many opportunities for different kinds of activities. These activities provide not only a fun time but are a great educational tool for your project. As the 4-H year processes, so does the weather, from good to wet. A great many activities you will want your group to do are outside, remember a wet time can be a fun time if you are prepared. Here are some things you can consider when planning your 4-H year:

1. Home Visits
2. Llama Ranch Tours
3. Llama Shows
4. Llama Fun Days
5. Hiking Trips
7. Nursing Home Visits
8. Parades
9. Veterinary Visits

Home or ranch visits are a great way for the 4-H members to bond into a unit. If at all Possible rotate your project meetings to a different 4-Hers farm each month. This is a good time for you to be able to answer any questions that new or younger members might have with regards to how their llama is doing in its home environment. Sometimes the parents have lots more questions they want to discuss than they normally would ask.

Llama ranch tours are a wonderful chance for 4-Hers to observe how different llama ranches are set up. Some ranches are set up for pack animals others might be breeding farms while others are farms owned by folks who just love llamas. No matter what kind of ranch you go to, they usually have the very best quality animals around. One important point to remember, most 4-H members don't own the very best llamas, but to the 4-H member their llama is priceless, and is as good as any other llama.

Llama shows are a great way for youth to see and learn how different llama events are done. Fitting and Showing, trail obstacles, public relations activities or any other class will show what is expected from the handler and their llama. One show can be worth more than a thousand words.

Many small farms hold what they call ‘Llama Fun Days’, a place and time where llama owners get together have different activities from obstacle courses to spinning. They are a perfect way for 4-H members to get to meet many non 4-H members who share their interests in llamas

Hiking trips are the best way for your youth members and their llamas to learn to work together. Nothing is better for building confidence than nature. It also provides 4-H members with information on how their llama might behave with different obstacles. Llamas will behave totally different on a natural trail, than a man made one especially when 400 or 500 people are standing around watching.

Nursing home visits bring together 2 opposite generations of individuals, senior citizens love to have visitors and what is a better visitor, than a young person with a llama. You as the project leader will have to do the leg work with setting something like this up, and of course take your bomb proof llamas only.

Parades, llamas seem to love parades more than people. Who is, actually looking at who, is the question? 4-H members and their llamas are great crowd pleasers. Watching, llamas walk down a street looking at the onlookers with as much curiosity, as the onlooker looks at the llama, does the heart good. A little costume work with both the 4-H member and their llama and you have a wonderful public relations event as a bonus.

Veterinary visits, provide the member a chance to ask questions regarding the health and well being of llamas. Llamas because of their stoic nature make observations of their daily condition very important in their care. When a llama is sick but doesn't show any signs of illness, when those signs are observed it might be too late for a positive outcome. The 4-h member, parent, project leader all need to be as informed as possible to llama health and well being.

These have been just a few of the llama outings that you and your project members can be involved with. It is up to your group to find the best mix of outings for all age groups in the project. Older members will want things more difficult or scientific while younger members while wanting the same things have a little shorter attention span.

BIG 4-H EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

There are a few main events or activities that all 4-H members will take part in, some with great glee and others with some dread, yet from these events, comes the young adult that will be recognized as having been a 4-H member.

Demonstrations, this is one of those areas that some members dread, yet it builds so much confidence in the member. In the llama project, there are many ways to build a demonstration. If you have a member who spins, have them build their demonstration up from fiber gathering and preparation, carding spinning to a final garment. Standing up in front of others and giving a speech is a true, life skill.

Fairs both county and state are the fun side of 4-H. Many members have found that the fair is more than showing, it renews friendships and builds new ones. Herdsmanship being that part of the fair that most fairgoers will see as having a direct effect on the animal is the most stressed at fairs. No one wants to see an animal in dirty bedding or going without feed and water. When the fairgoer sees the 4-H member caring for animals and keeping the barn clean, they have a positive experience of how the animal is cared for at home, and then enjoy the animals as much as the 4-H member does.

Judging, is designed to test the growing knowledge possessed by the 4-H member. It can cover everything from types of feed to the worst brushes to comb out a llama with. It will be a help for members if you as the project leader are comfortable with judging. Pick up judging cards for your members to become familiar with, and knowing the proper way to fill them out. Even though llama judging is not done at the state fair at this time, counties may opt to have llama judging contest. If your 4-H members are in other projects where judging can be done, have them participate in those contests also.

Awards received at the fair hold a special value to the 4-H member. No one is going to get all the blues nor is somebody going to get all the whites. Your llama project members need to remember that their animals have good days and bad days just as people do. There are awards given out that are sponsored by different groups, farms, breeders and owners, these are different than the normal fair award and show that the winner had a great show.

The State Fair Llama Medallion Award is sponsored by:

Llama Owners of Washington State

**THINGS YOU NEED TO REMEMBER
BECAUSE
YOUR BOYS AND GIRLS WILL WANT TO KNOW**

1. When you need to buy and own a llama so it can be in the County fair
2. The date and time for County demonstrations
3. When record books need to be completed and have they been signed
4. Time and place for judging contest
5. The date entries are due to the County fair
6. How to fill out County and State Fair entry forms
7. The health requirements for their animal to go to the fair

LLAMA PROJECT MEETINGS

October 1st is the start of each new 4-H year and the planning stage for the year's activities. The following, list of items, are intended to be suggestions of things your group can do during the following year. If you have new llama project members, it would be a good idea to have those youths and their parents attend this first meeting.

FIRST GENERAL PROJECT MEETING

1. October, Planning

Objective : To discuss with members the scope of the llama project and how it might fit together with the other projects they might be doing. Plan the year's work at this time. Hold this meeting before members select their other projects, they don't want to be over loaded.

- A. Discuss the following items with all members and their parents.
- How the llama project fits into the home situation, is there time and desire
 - That llamas are very social and do not do well as a single animal on the farm, if possible acquire 2 llamas
 - Shelter, pasture, fencing, feed and care
 - Where llamas can be purchased
 - Cost of a llama
 - Shows and fairs
- B. Plan the project meetings
- The number of meetings to be held
 - Special field trips
 - Where and when to meet
 - Subjects to be covered at each meeting

- C. Announce the subject, “Llama History”, and the time and place for the next meeting.
- D. Assignments for the next meeting, for new members, a resource list covering; books, periodicals, web sites and any other information that you use in you project.
- New members to get the book ,
 - Junior members, draw a map showing where llamas (camelids) first originated and where they migrated too.
 - Intermediate members, a presentation on llama behavior
 - Senior members, discuss the way different groups use llamas, including those camelids found in Asia and in Africa

2. November, Parts of the Llama

Objective: To teach your members the different body parts of the llama

- A. Have the members present last meetings assignment
- B. Discuss the body structure of a llama, starting with the skeleton.
- Talk about how long it takes for the skeleton to reach maturity
 - Discuss how different parts of the skeleton are effected by different activities
 - Discuss how a llama should be put together, conformation
- C. Announce next month activity, “The Christmas Parade”, only if it has been planned.
- The costumes each member and llama will need
 - Where and when to meet
 - What to do if it rains
- D. Assignments for January meeting, “Health Requirements For Llamas”
- Juniors, How heat and cold effect llamas
 - Intermediates, “Shots for Llamas, what kind, how much and site of shot
 - Seniors, Internal parasites and external parasites, how to prevent them
 - Parents, put up money for everything, joke

3. December, Parade or Whatever was planned

Objective: To show your 4-H members and their llamas how to be part of the community

4. January, Care of Your Llama

Objective: To bring to the attention of your members how they must care for the llama

- A. Reports from members on last months assignments
- B. Break into a couple of small groups and have Intermediates and Seniors discuss health Needs of the llama with Junior members.
- C. Show a movie about llamas in South America
- E. Next months, activity, Fitting and Showing practice at the county fair grounds, bring all llamas to fair grounds
- F. Assignments;
 - Juniors, describe the best size space needed to train a llama
 - Intermediates, discuss how much time one should spend on each training activity
 - Seniors, Show how to properly back a llama
- F. Have some refreshments

5. February, Training The Llama

Objective, Teaching the members how to properly work with their llamas in training

- A. Members, first report on their assignments from last month, Junior members should set up training area in the arena. Intermediates, talk about time frames for each training exercise. Seniors, give a demonstration on backing of llama
- B. Introduce the judge you have brought in for this Fitting and Showing training.

C. Next month's assignment, "Trail Obstacles at The Falling Down Farm"

D. Members assignments for March

- Juniors, describe way you check your llama over before going on a trail course
- Intermediates, give a presentations on poison plants in your area
- Seniors, discuss what kind of impact llamas have on the trail if any

6. March, Trail Obstacle Course

Objective, to provide the opportunity for the member and llama to work together as a unit while at the same time showing the member how much the llama depends on them for safety.

A. Members will give presentations from last months assignments

B. Have 2nd & 3rd year project members go with 1st year members on shorten trail, to be sure safety is understood

C. All members go on trail, things to remember:

- Be sure trail is safe for all member age groups
- No obstacle is to demanding on the llama, especially young llamas

D. Next months assignment, Llama Knowledge Bowl

E. Members assignment, all members review what they have learned

F. Location and Time for Next Meeting

7. April, Knowledge Bowl and Grooming

Objective, the proper way to groom your llama with the proper equipment, and are they becoming knowledgeable

- A. Set up for knowledge bowl quiz, a great way to build confidence, mix age groups into teams, keep questions appropriate.
- B. Grooming equipment, have all types of combs, brushes, blowers and any other acceptable equipment on hand. If possible show items not correct for grooming.
- C. Give each member the opportunity to use all the equipment. It is important that the members own animal can be brushed, otherwise the llama will not be clean at fair.
- D. Next months assignment, Presentations
- E. Each member should prepare for their county presentation
 - Juniors, select a presentation subject, 3 to 4 minutes in length
 - Intermediates, subject matter, 4 to 8 minutes in length
 - Seniors, subject matter, can be presentation or a speech, 12 minutes in length
- F. Next meeting, at Mrs. Presentations house, time and location

8. May, Presentations

Objective, to teach member how to prepare and give a speech in front of a group of strangers.

- A. Discuss with members their presentations
- B. Have Mrs. Presentation and Senior members show how to make posters for presentation
- C. Demonstration Day, will be at end of month, are all ready?
- D. Next month's activity, A Visit to The Veterinary

9. June, The Vets Visit and return To Project Leaders House

Objective, 4-h members learn how the veterinary and his staff provide services

- A. Have the veterinary give to the group any updated information on llama health and care
- B. After vet visit, have 4-H members gather at project leaders, to go over record books and fair entry information
- C. Do all members have the tack for their llamas they will need at fair.
- D. Next month's assignment, Visit All Members Homes, Checking Toe Nails On Llamas
- E. Next Month's Assignment, Preparing For Fair, Public Relations

10. July, The County Fair, Public Relations

Objective, To see that all members have all needed equipment for fair, decorations are to be made and training on Public Relations obstacle or activity at the Fair

- A. Have all members prepare stall decorations for the fair
 - Cut out letters
 - Make up posters
- B. Lay out a small Public Relations course, have all members participate in it, Senior members should assist younger or new members
- C. Bring record books up to date, have animal certification ready if needed

These have been just some ideas for you to work with, in setting about to plan your 4-H llama year. The project is your responsibility and the information that you pass on is going to have an impact on your members, for the rest of their lives. The life skills you will help them learn are just as important as the great memories you will provide.