

Come One Come All!

2018 FCE Leader Lesson - Membership
Sarah Ransom, FCS Agent in Johnson County

Goal of Lesson:

- Inform participants of the history behind FCE
- Educate on purpose of FCE
- Provide ideas for growing county membership

Lesson:

Family and Community Education clubs have been a part of Extension history for over 75 years! We have undergone many changes...from Extension homemakers, home demonstration clubs, to Family and Community Education clubs. While the names may change, the same heartbeat is still strong behind the individuals gathering to affect their community. Learning through shared experiences, improve home and community life, strengthen adult education and enhance our communities – this is why we do what we do! Even more important though, are the friendships and bonds that form when the clubs gather across the state of Tennessee to meet and work alongside one another. We believe that learning together is better.

The purpose of Family and Community Education clubs is to educate. FCE provides research-based information through the University of Tennessee. Here are many hands-on workshops associated with human development, nutrition and food safety, money management and family economics, as well as health and safety. The beauty of FCE is this program allows you to find what you enjoy, then live life doing things you love. We also exist to help FCE members learn how to lead. There are several leadership development opportunities to help bring growth to your community, church, local government and family. FCE provides opportunity for leadership through service project leaders, leadership development conferences and trainings.

There are many ways to invite individuals to give them an opportunity to experience the excitement and friendship that is enjoyed in FCE, here are just a few ideas that may work well for your group:

- Booths at Community Events
- Take information to the “new comers” clubs in your county
- FCE in the Morning PJ & Movie Party
- Holiday Luncheon and Craft Days
- Cookie Exchange Party
- Ads in the newspapers/radio
- Painted Rocks in Community Parks
- Community Projects and advertisement on those projects
- Bread Baking Classes
- Evening or Weekend Craft Workshops
- Multi-County Workshop events
- Tea Parties
- FCE BBQs
- Pay for Someone’s Annual Dues
- Day Away from Home – visiting another county or state
- Special prizes
- Personal invitation (multiple times!)
- “Each One, Bring One” Month for Current Members
- Book Reviews from Reading Log (have members share favorite books with the club)

No matter what you decide to try to increase numbers within your club – it is important to be willing to try new ideas and ask people to come and check out the group. Sometimes, all it takes is one visit – other times it is going to be a little harder. While some individuals will come because of the friendships, others may come for the community work, some enjoy coming because they can help the 4-H kids through scholarship programs. Discover what FCE is for you, and each member in your club, then take your group strengths and advertise what you all love doing!