

Singing Coordinator's Guide

Music is an important part of any meeting or activity. Group singing helps people feel more at ease, lose their shyness, and center their interest on the program of the meeting. Song leadership and the selection of appropriate songs can stimulate enthusiasm or quiet a boisterous group.

Group singing can take place at any time during an event. Let's follow the motto, **"No fun without music; no music without fun."**

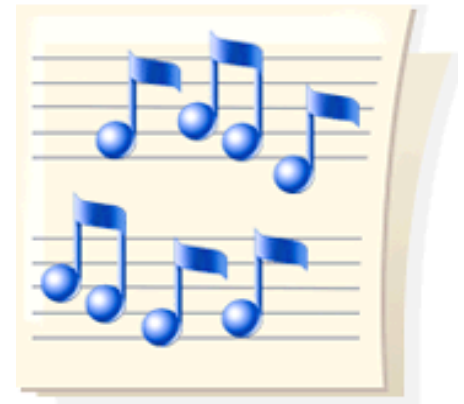
Here are a few suggestions to help a coordinator of singing.

- Involve as many people as possible throughout the program. This involvement can take many forms, such as leading songs, leading rounds, leading novelty songs, playing musical instruments, etc.
- In planning for singing, a list of songs should be prepared in advance. The list will provide the opportunity for the person leading the songs to select the appropriate numbers.
- Announce the songs clearly and begin with the most familiar songs which all can sing to make them feel at ease.
- There is no one set place for singing in a meeting. If a group is beginning to be restless or inattentive during any part of a meeting, a song might provide a good break and create more enthusiasm.
- Get the group "set" for the start of a song. Give a sharp, decisive movement which will bring everybody in on the first tone.
- Do not neglect any part of the audience during the leading of a song. Encourage the participation of those who are not singing.
- Think of the audience as individuals and not as a group.
- In acknowledging requests from the group, do not hesitate to "hear" the song which would be most appropriate at the time.
- If the singing is only part of a program, do not use more than your share of the time.
- For the final song, choose one that everyone likes to sing so that an effective ending will be made.
- Try to make good songs popular. Sing the same song often enough to learn the words so that books will not always be needed.



Attributes of a Good Coordinator of Singing

- Personality is very important to successful song leading. Smile and have a good time.
- Attention – Get your hands up before the singing starts so that every eye is on you. Be a leader and take command.
- Beginning – A good beginning assures good singing. Give a positive and definite signal for the first word of a song and each succeeding phrase.
- Words – Direct and "beat out" the words. Don't be too concerned with the counting of time. Speak the words and each syllable with your hands.
- Turn it off. Indicate ending with hands so as to leave no doubt.



Questions for Thought

1. What is the job of a coordinator of singing?
2. In what ways can you help your club?
3. How may the club help choose the songs for a club meeting?
4. How should a new song be taught to the group?
5. What are the different types of songs and how might they be used?
6. What special musical activities such as caroling can you arrange for your club?

It is the policy of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service that all persons have equal opportunity and access to its educational programs, services, activities, and facilities without regard to race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability or status as a veteran. Purdue University is an Affirmation Action institution.

This material may be available in alternative formats.



SUGGESTIONS FOR 4-H CLUB SONG LEADERS

Congratulations on being elected to the office of 4-H Club Song Leader! The other members of your club believed that you would do a good job of introducing them to new songs throughout the year.

Here are some tips to help you be successful as a Song Leader for your 4-H Club.

1. Work closely with your local leader and other club officers as you plan your song activities.
2. Consider the time that will be available during the meeting for you to lead songs with your club.
3. Plan the songs you will lead well in advance of the meeting. Be sure that you have practiced the songs in advance.
4. You should have at least one song planned for each meeting.
5. Introduce your members to a wide variety of songs throughout the year.
6. Encourage all members to be involved in the songs. Everyone will have a better time if the whole group is participating.
7. There are several sources available for you to look up new songs. Check with the Extension Office to obtain some of these.
8. As you lead the songs, you may wish to run through the song once by yourself or with a small group, especially if it is a new song. Then have the entire group join in. Remember to speak loudly and clearly so that everyone can hear you.

Good luck as Song Leader this year!

Read and study the pamphlet entitled "Singing Coordinator's Guide" (4-H 454) for more ideas and suggestions.