

Enthusiasm, genuine concern for young people, and familiarity with FCCLA resources and opportunities are keys to adviser effectiveness. Patience, a sense of humor, and flexibility help too! Here are some ways to strengthen members' FCCLA experiences:

- **Encourage youth-centered leadership so all members have the opportunity to participate.** Students may need to be convinced they want to participate in youth-centered leadership. It's easier for them to let the adviser do everything for them. An effective chapter adviser helps students by guiding instead of prescribing, suggesting rather than dictating, and encouraging not demanding.
- **Help students feel comfortable assuming leadership roles.** Students' leadership abilities and interests will vary, but each FCCLA member can gain experience that strengthens his or her leadership for families, careers, and communities. Advisers can help students see chapter projects and activities as part of a larger process of learning.
- **Put members in charge so they truly feel responsible for the project or activity.** Using the FCCLA Planning Process gives youth the opportunity to identify their own concerns and establish their own goals. Some students may be skeptical about being given the responsibility for the planning, but if the adviser establishes a feeling of trust, chapter leaders will feel comfortable asking for adult advice.
- **Help students understand themselves and learn from their experiences, including successes and failures.** Incorporate evaluation and reflection throughout project development and implementation. Allow students full responsibility for their efforts, even if that means they are not completely successful.

- **Keep the organization visible within the school and community.** This helps students identify with FCCLA and garners support for the chapter and the Family and Consumer Sciences education program. The adviser can help members feel a part of FCCLA by staying informed about the organization and sharing the information with members. It also helps to use FCCLA-branded materials.
- **Identify and encourage outstanding members to run for district/region, state, and national offices.**
- **Affiliate all members at the district/region, state, and national levels as early as possible in the school year.** Full service to the chapter begins when dues are processed by the national organization.

Communication Is the Key

To be effective as a chapter adviser, it is essential to establish a personal level of communication with chapter members and to build a public relations link with the community. You can help make this happen by:

- Showing your enthusiasm for FCCLA activities and projects
- Dressing, acting, and feeling successful—it rubs off on those who come in contact with you
- Learning students' names and interests
- Informing parents when a member has done something that deserves recognition
- Letting school administrators know every time a member receives recognition at the district/region, state, or national level
- Establishing a good relationship with school counselors and encouraging them to promote FCCLA participation
- Expanding chapter connections by networking with professional and community organizations.