







Essential Elements	Learning Environment Approaches
Belonging – <i>I pledge my heart to greater loyalty . . .</i> 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A positive relationship with a caring adult 2. An inclusive environment 3. A safe environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage adult and teen leaders to mentor younger members. • Plan group learning experiences – project workshops. • Create a positive club meeting environment. • Allow for time with friends. • Celebrate success of all members together. • Plan some same-sex activities or groupings. • Respect diverse cultures and opinions.
Mastery – <i>I pledge my health to better living . . .</i> 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Engagement in learning 5. Opportunity for mastery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead fun and active games. • Provide opportunities to learn “real-life” skills. • Emphasize “hands-on” learning by doing. • Use simple written directions. • Keep written club officer tasks simple. • Help form groups to explore hobbies. • Display project work. • Encourage youths to answer their own questions. • Model and teach that failure and frustration are learning experiences. • Provide prompt feedback.
Independence – <i>I pledge my head to clearer thinking . . .</i> 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Opportunity to see oneself as an active participant in the future 7. Opportunity for self-determination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow 4-H members to lead meetings. • Share power through self-governance. • Include youths in planning discussions. • Give them time to solve problems. Let them experience the thrill of overcoming obstacles. • Commend children who seek advice. • Help them identify successes. • Plan recognition that involves peers and family members. • Help them develop the belief that they have impact on life’s events.
Generosity – <i>I pledge my hands to larger service . . .</i> 	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Opportunity to value and practice service for others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage group and individual service. • Help club members develop service projects that interest them. • Support youth-directed community service projects. • Allow for reflection about the service experience to support learning. • Use Character Counts – Citizenship materials. • Ask youths to take responsibility for helping others. • Encourage cross-age mentoring.