



Ohio 4-H Teen Connections

Service to others may be described in many ways... giving, helping, volunteering, community service, citizenship, humanitarianism and more. Each concept may vary but all speak to putting others before ourselves for a greater good. 4-H provides that amazing opportunity to do for others while also learning something more about our inner self. For teens, service can be a key to opening what the world has to offer! Please use the ideas in this issue of Ohio 4-H Teen Connections, to further explore what service and citizenship can mean for you.

For more information about Ohio 4-H Teen Connections or to find past issues, go to www.ohio4h.org/teenconnections/ or on Facebook at [Ohio4HTeenConnections](https://www.facebook.com/Ohio4HTeenConnections)



Thank you to the Ohio 4-H Foundation for its support of the Ohio 4-H Teen Connections.

Pledging My Hands to Larger Service Creative Ways to Get Involved in Your Community

By KRISTI LEKIES and CAITLIN MARQUIS
School of Environment and Natural Resources
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How does your club engage with the larger world? Through service, 4-H members develop leadership skills, interact with others, and most importantly—improve the quality of community life.

A survey of Ohio 4-H members in 9th and 12th grades indicated that donating money to local organizations, providing food or clothing to people in need, and improving parks and gardens were the most popular service activities. Members also were highly involved in helping with community events and volunteering at schools, nursing homes, and animal shelters.

How does your club make decisions about service activities? We encourage you to think creatively about your next projects.

Assessing Needs:

- Talk to club members about what issues matter to them or problems they would like to solve
- Encourage club members to read the local newspaper and follow current events
- Interview community and organizational leaders

Developing Ideas:

- Spend time brainstorming ideas for new service projects, as well as evaluating and improving past projects
- Identify creative fundraising ideas based on members' skills or interests



An invasive species is removed by Gunning Recreation Center Adventure Club during a Youth Outdoors service outing.

- Think about ways your club can partner with other groups to achieve shared goals
- Informing Others:
- Find creative ways to publicize service projects and events. Write a newspaper article or talk to the media about your group's activities.
 - Share the importance of 4-H and the activities you're doing with local officials, community groups, and classrooms.

With a little creativity, you can help your group focus more fully on meeting the goals of the 4-H pledge.

Ohio 4-H on the Road to History and Government

By CAROLYN BELCZYK

Extension Educator, Adams County

Among the more than one million people gathered on the National Mall to witness the second Inauguration of President Barack Obama were 97 Ohio 4-H members, parents, advisors, and Extension professionals. During their trip to Washington “on the road to history and government,” the delegates toured national monuments and museums; heard from several speakers; and, of course, attended the 57th Presidential Inauguration.

Eighteen counties were represented, including 32 youth members, advisors, and chaperones from Cuyahoga County’s Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), a non-traditional, Extension-sponsored 4-H program. The trip was funded in part by a grant from the Ohio 4-H Foundation. Additional sponsors included the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and PNC Bank.

On Inauguration Day, delegates hiked more than four miles to gain access to the Mall. They viewed the Inauguration on one of several Jumbotron. All were impressed by the number and diversity of the people in attendance; by the pomp and circumstance of the ceremonies; and, regardless of politics, by the man of the hour, President Barack Obama, as he was sworn in and gave his second Inaugural address.

Organizers and participants agree that “just being there” for the historic event is the stuff from which lifelong memories are made. Kameron Rhinehart, Fayette County delegate, says, “It was an experience of a lifetime to see D. C. It was amazing to see the people and what all was going on....Overall, it was a once in a lifetime experience that I will never forget. I spent it with some really great people and I would do it all again next time!”



ABOVE: The Ohio delegation prepares to board buses from the National 4-H Conference Center.

BELOW: Some of the delegation posed for a photo on the National Mall after the Inauguration.



For teen resources, online subscriptions and past issues, visit us at www.ohio4h.org/teenconnections/. Share questions, thoughts and ideas with other Ohio 4-H teens at www.facebook.com/Ohio4HTeenConnections. [Contact us](#) ... Ideas and suggestions for photos, stories, columns are welcome!

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Ohio's National 4-H Congress delegates for 2012.

Teen Opportunities

The Ohio 4-H Foundation Cyber Auction

Sept. 3 - Oct. 10, 2013

Have an item to donate? Want to support Ohio 4-H? Check out the revised Celebration of Youth!

<http://www.biddingforgood.com/oh4hfoundation>

Carving New Ideas Workshop

December 13-15, 2013 at 4-H Camp Ohio in Utica, Ohio. A weekend workshop designed for high school 4-H'ers to learn more about leadership and community service while creating lasting friendships with 4-H'ers from across Ohio. Hosted by Collegiate 4-H at The Ohio State University. To register, visit <http://c4h.org.ohio-state.edu/> Questions? Contact Collegiate 4-H at osuc4h@gmail.com

Ohio 4-H Teen and Volunteer Conference

Saturday, March 8, 2014

Greater Columbus Convention Center
Save the date!

Counselor College

March 15-16, 2014 at Canter's Cave 4-H Camp. Counselor College is a camp counselor training weekend open to any teen ages 14-18. Sessions are based on years of counselor experience with class registration consisting of some required classes and some electives for teens to choose from. All sessions are interactive and participants meet teens from around the state, share ideas, camping traditions and go home with lots of resources and activities they can use when planning their summers 4-H camps! For more info, contact Tracy Winters, 4-H Extension Educator, Gallia County at winters.5@osu.edu

Hard work pays off for youth

By DARBY LASURE

Ohio Achievement Award Winner

I attended the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia in November of 2012, although the process of getting there was very hard work the trip was far more rewarding. I attended Congress for the state of Ohio under the category of Veterinary Sciences.

I absolutely loved my trip. I met other 4-H'ers from across the nation and even Puerto Rico! I learned that 4-H can be anything to a lot of different people. To me it's showing lambs and to 4-Hers from Alaska it's showing reindeer.

The delegates attended a great dinner that provided food from every major nation in the world. We had the chance to see some great guest speakers, and learn about the history of the great Georgia city of Atlanta.

Near the end of the trip the delegates had the Gala dinner, which was our reward dinner and Miss America was the guest speaker of the evening.

My favorite event by far was volunteer day. I had the opportunity to volunteer at The City of Refuge where we helped in the gardens for the women's shelter. It really showed me how just a few hours of time can really change something for anyone. I learned exactly how to become the catalyst of change through 4-H.

National 4-H Congress delegates spell Ohio State in shadows.



How to get involved through Project Citizen

By Emily Davis

Madison County 4-H'er

My name is Emily Davis. I am 17 and a member of the Canaan Pathfinders 4-H club. I have been involved in 4-H for a little over nine years and the qualities, community involvement and responsibilities that I have learned over those years all came into play when I decided to take on the "Project Citizen" 4-H project. I'm not going to candy-coat anything; this was a very difficult project. It involved a great deal of research, contacting and speaking with community leaders, public surveys, a lot of prep work involving my young 4-H club and that didn't even include putting together the extensive presentation.

My club meets and is mostly made up of people that live in a rural part of town. As a part of "Project Citizen" you have to do some brainstorming among the club and find an issue that affects your club, and your community and work in many different aspects to try and solve it or at least make an effort to make an improvement. I had recently had a guest speaker visit our meeting and talk about recycling. The advisors in the club mentioned that recycling was easy for people that lived in the city with curb side programs that were in place, but that people who lived in the country had to haul their items to a drop off site or a not so nearby recycling station. So that was it! The problem that faced our club was the lack of close recycling opportunities for people living in rural areas. We also came to the conclusion that if recycling was easier, that more people would recycle.

We still needed to know if this was a problem for our community as well as within our club. The club decided that we should do a public survey and a good place to conduct the survey would be in libraries. A display was made that held surveys for the public to fill out and return, asking if they recycled, lived in the city or in the country, and if they would recycle more if there was a convenient facility. After a couple of weeks the results were collected and tallied at our next meeting. Of the people that took the survey and lived in the country and recycled, the majority said that they would recycle more if there was a convenient location. Our next dilemma was to figure out how to have a facility that could be convenient for everyone to use.

To solve that problem I spoke to the director of the Madison County Recycling Program, Darlene Steele. She spoke to me about drop off recycling dumpsters, and recycling trucks that would be able to travel from place to place on a rotating schedule and collect the recyclables. I told her about the results of our public survey saying that more people would recycle if the location was convenient. She was happy to hear that since an EPA requirement states that nearly 90% of the community

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has to be given the opportunity to recycle in order to save natural resources as well as space in landfills.

At that point Steele and I started working together with township trustees, and community leaders to come up with key areas that would be convenient and a rough idea of a schedule to see if they were interested. They were! I attended several meetings and offered my ideas from working with the community in the past, and offered the help of my 4-H club when it came time to make posters and circulate flyers to notify the public of local collection sites and dates. Everyone thought this was a great idea, but it didn't happen quickly. Several spots were recommended but we had to take into consideration if there was another recycling opportunity in place, the land had to be township owned and accessible by a truck on a regular basis. Kinks were worked out and everyone involved pitched in to take care of their part in getting this idea off and running. We decided on eight different "access recycling" locations. A traveling recycling truck will visit each place for a publically scheduled two hour stay, monthly. As well as a few permanent drop off facilities.

I feel like what we have started, may be just the beginning of opening the door to many other community opportunities. I am so proud of my club and myself for seeing such a large project go full circle. I recently spoke to Miss Steele about the results of the "access recycling" program. She said that the efforts were successful. One location was changed to a different site due to low participation, but otherwise the numbers were good! I feel like our club and I learned a lot about taking action within the community and working together with officials to solve a problem and being proud of what we accomplished. With the extensive information and experiences and a confident presentation involving myself and key club members, this project has earned Madison County "Outstanding" and Ohio State Fair "Outstanding of The Day" and "Clock Award" (highest award in the state), as well as individual medals for presenters and article opportunities. So, yes this project was hard, but I feel it will benefit the community for years to come.