Teen Leadership 20

The Benefits of Service

BACKGROUND
Service can be defined as the action of helping or doing work for someone. 4-H has service as part of the Citizenship mission mandate, with many 4-H projects and programs including service as part of the experience. While service is common, thinking about who benefits and how may be easily overlooked without intentional focus.

WHAT TO DO
Activity:
• Start with a few questions to get participants thinking about service and their prior experiences.
  o When I say service, what does that mean to you?
  o What are some examples of service that you have participated in? (i.e., past projects)
  o Who benefited thanks to your service? Chances are, more than you think.
• Next, discuss that there are 3 main groups who benefit from service: the Youth Participants, the Youth Organization, and the Individuals/Organization Receiving the Service.
  Generate a list of benefits that each of these groups receive through the act of service. (You can have individuals come up and write their ideas on each list or have people bounce ideas off each other while you write them on the appropriate list.)
• Use the Benefits of Community-Based Service Learning fact sheet, retrieved from:
  http://www.extension.iastate.edu/sites/www.extension.iastate.edu/files/4h/Benefits_of_CommunityBased_FS_Short_FIN_AL_Feb08.pdf to compare answers and give more context to benefits that participants share.

Intended Audience:
• Teens

Lesson Objectives:
Participants will:
• Discuss who benefits from service
• Generate ideas on how those doing service might benefit

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:
• 3 pieces of Flip Chart paper or Dry Erase Board
• Tape (if needed)
• Markers
• Print the Benefits of Community-Based Learning fact sheet

Do Ahead:
• Review lesson
• Label each Flip Chart page (or write labels on Dry Erase Board after initial questions in step 1)
  – Youth Participants, Youth Organization, Individuals/Organization Receiving Service
  – Print and review the Benefits of Community-Based Service Learning fact sheet for reference
  – Print Skills for Success handout for each participant
Considerations for Conducting Virtually:

- Utilize screenshare/whiteboard and annotate feature to help brainstorm with the group about the three main groups who benefit from service.
- Send the handouts via email prior to the meeting or distribute them in the chat box when needed.

Sources:

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TALK IT OVER

Reflect:
- When you think of service, which of the three groups do you spend the most time thinking about?
- Were there any surprises in the list of benefits shared? Why?

Apply:
- Now that you have thought about the benefits of service, what other groups or individuals might benefit from your service? (either specific or general)
- How might service be a good way to develop critical 21st century skills? (see Skills for Success handout)

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Please take time to complete the Participant and Facilitator evaluations, found online at go.osu.edu/TeenLeadership20.
Skills for Success
The Skills You Need to Succeed in the 21st Century Workforce

Thinking Skills
Thinking skills include critical thinking, problem-solving, creativity, and innovation.
Expert thinking skills involve the ability to:
- evaluate relevance, assess accuracy, and use information to solve problems.
- think creatively and to generate new ideas and innovative solutions.
- understand how systems (e.g., social, organizational) work, how to operate within them, and make improvements.

Communication
The ability to communicate effectively using the range of methods and tools available in today’s environment.
Communication skills include an ability to:
- listen, interpret and convey information to others.
- articulate thoughts/ideas clearly and effectively orally and in writing (e.g., one-on-one communication and larger group/public speaking skills, writing instructions).

Technology Adoption and Application
A firm foundation of technology skills includes:
- a sound understanding of technology concepts, systems, and operations.
- selecting and using appropriate technology to accomplish a given task.
- can identify and solve problems with technology.

Lifelong Learning and Self-direction
A willingness to take responsibility for continually improving capabilities and skills which includes:
- taking responsibility to set goals and improve skills through mentoring, training, formal education, or other learning activities.
- showing initiative by soliciting and receiving feedback, and learning from one’s mistakes.

Professionalism and Ethics
Demonstrate personal accountability, effective work habits, and ethical behavior through:
- managing time well and meets scheduled deadlines.
- respecting others and working well with people from diverse backgrounds.
- having a positive attitude about work.
- being punctual, honest, and responsible.

Teamwork and Leadership
The interpersonal skills to work effectively in a team and provide leadership include an ability to:
- work cooperatively with others and contribute to a group effort.
- build collaborative relationships, work with diverse teams, negotiate and manage conflict.
- motivate an individual or group, bring out the best in those around them to inspire innovation and performance.
- leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals; use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Increasingly Important Skills & Content Areas
When asked about skills that will become more important and emerging content areas most critical for the future, employers frequently cite the skills for success described above and add:
- foreign languages – as a tool for understanding other cultures.
- personal financial responsibility – managing finances and planning for the future.
- entrepreneurial skills – enhance productivity and expand career options.
- diversity – ability to learn from and work with individuals representing diversity in its broadest sense.