

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Virtually

Intended Audience

- 4-H Club Members

Lesson Objectives

Club members and parents will:

- Learn why community service is part of 4-H
- Develop a plan to implement a community service project.
- Evaluate the success and outcomes from that project

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies

- Digital copy of community Service Projects for 4-H Members while Social Distancing
- Digital copy of Planning project guide

Do Ahead

- Review Curriculum Overview
- Review Lesson
- Send out online meeting link and email handouts to each family

Community Service

BACKGROUND

Community Service - a donated service or activity performed by someone or a group of people for the benefit of the public or its institutions.

Community service has always been a major component of 4-H and is clearly stated in our 4-H pledge:

I pledge my HEAD to clearer thinking, my HEART to greater loyalty, my HANDS to larger service and my HEALTH to better living, for my club, my community, my country, and my world.

4-H members are encouraged to develop and practice skills to become helpful or useful in their club, community, country, and world. 4-H community service projects allow youth and adults to work together while helping others at the same time.

WHAT TO DO

Activity: Develop the Plan - A community service project can take many forms and whatever the project, if it meets a need, then both the community and 4-H members' benefit.

1. Brainstorming to determine the need: Have club members and family members list some of the needs they have seen in their community. Record these needs on a shared screen for all to see. Examples: online tutors, virtual help with 4-H projects, pet fosters, essential workers special delivery project, checking in on seniors, donations of food, etc. Share the Community Service Projects for 4-H Members While Social Distancing handout to help spark interest.
2. Determine the interest level and abilities of your 4-H members and families: On a second screen ask 4-H members and families to list their interest, hobbies, and special skills. (Such as sewing, animal care, writing, cooking etc.)



Sources

- Fact sheets from University of Illinois Extension 4-H Community Service

Additional Links

- <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/sites/4h.extension.illinois.edu/files/Community%20Service%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>
- <https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/sites/4h.extension.illinois.edu/files/Community%20Service%20Interview%20Questions.pdf>

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3. Match each families interest/skills with a need in your community: Example a couple families are interest in animal care match them with the local animal shelter and have a donation drive or pet adoption drive on social media.
4. Put it on paper: Begin planning your family 4-H community service. Using the Planning Project Guide, have members work through the worksheet to develop plans. If members are working together on the same project, consider putting them in breakout rooms to establish their plan.
5. Review Step 5 & 6 at first meeting but set up a 2nd meeting date to complete these steps.

Step 5: Documentation: Stress the importance of documentation. Documentation can include photos, videos, news stories, or scrapbooks. These should be shared at your next online club meeting. Clubs officers can then compile everyone's projects into a news release for the local paper, send them to the Extension office, and share them on social media sites.

6. Evaluation of project: Once the projects are completed remember to process the learning experience by discussing the successes and short comings of each community service. Ask what went well, what happened that was unexpected, if you do this again what would you change?

Food for thought - Remember members learn by doing and should be actively involved in all aspects of the project: planning, gathering supplies, recruiting volunteers, implementation of the event, documentation of the event and final evaluation of the event. Role of adults should be to guide in the right direction, supply support and encouragement as needed.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- Is community service an important part of your club meetings?

Apply:

- Plan to do at least one community service project from beginning to end as a family unit.
- Share the goals of your project. What affect did you have on the need of the community?

EVALUATION

Place the following link in the chat for attendees to use to complete the evaluation for the session

go.osu.edu/bestbetvirtual .