

Making the Best 4-H Clubs Better – Virtually

Intended Audience

- 4-H Club Members

Lesson Objectives

Club members and parents will:

- Learn about hidden dangers for litter and trash pick-up.
- Learn to identify unsafe trash or litter and how to report those items.
- Plan a safe community service project using ICE.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies

- PowerPoint of litter pictures (provided)
- YouTube videos on Litter pick up Safety.
- Handouts in electronic format that can be emailed to families:
 - ICE - In Case of Emergency Planning Guide
 - Keeping Community Service Safe

Do Ahead

- Review Curriculum Overview
- Review Lesson
- Download litter slideshow and polling questions.
- Email handouts to each family.
- Download YouTube videos.

Keeping Community Service Safe

BACKGROUND

There are “Hidden Dangers Everyone Needs to Know When Planning a Community Service Project.” In a recent report released by the Ohio Department of transportation, more than 396,000 trash bags of litter were removed from Ohio’s roads in 2018. The cost of this removal by the Ohio Department of Transportation was over \$10 million dollars in that one year alone. Ohio 4-H members have long been a partner with community programs such as Adopt a Highway, various river clean ups, and local beautification projects. However, state and local authorities are now warning about hidden dangers in litter pick up. Reports have been published in almost every state in the U.S. of roadside cleanup crews and volunteers finding discarded meth labs and used needles along roadways and in public places. In this lesson, advisors, members, and parents will learn about roadside safety while still caring for our environment.

WHAT TO DO

Activity:

1. Prepare and show a virtual slide show with a variety of pictures of common roadside litter. Include a few pictures of trash that is unsafe to touch, such as items that could have been used for drug use, or biohazards. See the Hidden dangers handout for examples.
2. If using a meeting platform that allows for polls or voting, allow members to vote on each slide. Members should vote if they think it is safe to pick up that item or not.
 - If they think there might be a hidden danger to the object discuss it as a group. (Use the hidden danger list to identify and discuss the dangerous objects that could have been part of drug use, as well as personal safety of handling trash.)



Sources

- Ohio Department of Transportation
- Gallia County Sheriff's Office
- Ohio State University Extension 4-H project book "My Hands to Larger Service, Teen Leaders Building our Communities"
- Adopt-a-Highway
- Colorado Department of Transportation

Additional Links

- Adopt-a-Highway Safety Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaKpX6eUk6E>
- Ohio Department of Transportation <https://www.transportation.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odot/about-us/resources/adopt-a-highway>

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3. Ask follow-up questions for groups to share in the chat or discuss in gallery view:

- where do you see the most litter?
- Are there any places around your house that you see a lot of trash?
- What about around your school?
- Who do you think is responsible for all that trash? Could it be you? Could it be your parents? Could it be your neighbors?

After some discussion about how litter gets along our roads, in our yards, in our fields or on the school grounds, ask them to come up with solutions to prevent litter from happening. Record their solutions on screen so they can see the responses.

As a club, vote to see if members think it is important to continue 4-H's tradition of picking up litter or if it has simply become too dangerous. Depending on the outcome of your vote plan a SAFE litter pick-up or plan an ALTERNATE community service project that they could do instead. Sharing your screen, use the ICE – In Case of Emergency Planning Guide to plan your community service.

Optional Activities:

- Watch the "Meth Lab Recognition Video" created by the Colorado Department of Transportation on YouTube. <https://youtu.be/kF25d0Gnvjo>
Watch Roadside Clean-Up Safety Plan: <https://www.countygp.ab.ca/assets/Departments/Public~Works/Docs/ROADSIDE%20CLEAN-UP%20Safety.pdf>
- Invite a member of the local police department, Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, or local drug task force to discuss safety practices with your club. Virtual guest speakers can be added to your club meetings.

TALK IT OVER

Reflect:

- Discuss the pros and cons of picking up litter. Discuss dangers you might encounter during this or another community service projects. What precautions should they take? Use your ICE cards to help with this.

Apply:

- Have the club members come up with their own suggestions for staying safe and keeping our environment clean. Can your club members do anything to educate their family, friends and neighbors about the harmful effects of litter on your community?

EVALUATION

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

go.osu.edu/bestbetvirtual .