

## 4-H Community Service Learning Award

(A maximum of three monetary awards will be given)

For more than 70 years, Community Service has been an important part of 4-H. So has hands on, learning-by-doing, that we now call experiential learning. When you put those ideas together appropriately, the result goes beyond a “feel good” experience: service activities tied closely to what youth are learning positively impact learning, and genuinely help the community.

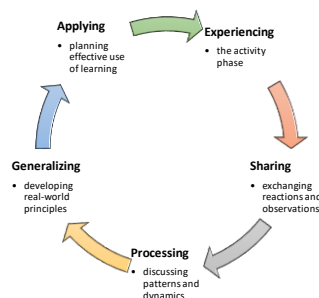
Community Service Learning is a form of experiential learning in which youth apply the subject matter they are learning along with critical thinking skills to address genuine community needs. When youth are involved in selecting and planning such efforts, and have structured time to reflect, talk, and write about the actual service activity they are performing, the youth learn more, they become more confident about what they have learned, they improve in problem-solving ability, their leadership and social abilities improve, they take more enjoyment in the overall learning experience, they retain the subject matter longer, and they are more likely to volunteer to serve the community in the future.

The Experiential Learning Cycle generally used in 4-H consists of five steps:

1. **EXPERIENCING** the activity: perform, do it.
2. **SHARING** the results, reactions, observations publicly.
3. **PROCESSING** by discussing, looking at the experience; analyze, reflect.
4. **GENERALIZING** to connect the experience to real-world examples.
5. **APPLYING** what was learned to a similar or different situation; practice.

The Service Learning Cycle includes all the steps of the experiential learning cycle. However, in service learning there are three **EXPERIENCE** steps. Step 1, Needs Assessment and Step 2, Plan and Prepare are just as significant experiential learning as is Step3, Experience Meaningful Service. Each of the three steps includes Reflection as an important component. Step 4, Analyze and Generalize, processes the first three steps, and the cycle completes with Step 5, New Application. At this point, participants are ready to begin another more challenging cycle, because of the learning that takes place in the first cycle!

### The Service-Learning Cycle



## 4-H Community Service Learning Award Application

INSTRUCTIONS: Submit this application cover page along with supporting documentation as outlined below by the deadline established each year. Late applications will not be accepted.

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Year \_\_\_\_\_

Club Community Leader Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Community Service Chairperson(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of active members in club: \_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria Percentages for Evaluation

- **5% Introduction:** To be written by the community leader or community service advisor, limited to one page.
- **10% Goals for the Year:** Convey to the judging committee, via outline form, or paragraph form, the community service activity goals the club set, limited to one page.
- **30% Donations, Collections, and Community Service Activities:** What activities have members participated in by donating or collecting items and what impact has this activity had on the recipients of the donations, Include activities you believe to be outstanding, including description of activity, involvement, etc. Please be as specific as possible. Please limit this to two pages.
- **30% Service Learning Activities:** Include activities you believe to incorporate the service-learning cycle, including a description of the activity, members involved, and details about the steps followed and the resulting learning experience of members. Please be specific as possible. Please limit to two pages.
- **20% Members Learning Responses:** 2-6 letters from members to include the following information: Name, age, number of years in 4- H, and at least one paragraph about what they learned by participating in community service learning activities. Did their participation nurture their “Spark?” Which of the six “c’s” can they reflect on from their participation? No page limit.
- **5% Pictures, News Clippings, and Letters of Recognition/Thanks:** Include them as supporting documents and label which community service/learning activities to which they apply.

Helpful resources on Service Learning can be found at:

<http://4h.ucanr.edu/Programs/Projects/Citizenship/ServiceLearning/>