In the Service Learning project, youth members engage in service experiences that deepen their understanding of 4-H educational content. Service learning combines meaningful community service and learning.

- Identify and learn about a recognized community need.
- Demonstrate decision making in a safe environment.
- Participate in the development of community partnerships.
- Understand the citizen’s role in improving society.

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- Make sure that a service activity meets a real community need:
  - Find out what foods low-income senior need; collect those foods and donate them to a food bank.
  - Learn about young children’s literacy needs; go to a daycare center and read aloud to them.
  - Learn about shelter pet; participate in pet

- Participate in the development of community partnerships:
  - Partner with the local food bank to regularly collect food for low-income seniors that meet their nutritional needs.
  - Work with the local library to select age-appropriate children’s books. Make book bags for the children to carry books home.

- Adding an outreach and/or policy component expands the experience:
  - Meet with policy makers and encourage them to fund senior nutrition programs.
  - Conduct a campaign to encourage aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents the value of reading aloud to young children.
  - Create and distribute materials on pet

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.
Expand Your Experiences!

Citizenship

- Research childhood obesity. Urge policymakers to adopt policies that address the issue.
- Offer “canine citizenship” lessons to dog owners.

Healthy Living

- Learn how to prepare healthy snacks. Hold demos/tasting at community club meetings.
- Learn some active games. Regularly go to an afterschool site and play the games

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Get trained in 4-H Youth Experiencing Science (YES) curriculum. Lead the activities at a community event or afterschool program.
- Organize and stage a science fair for younger children. Collaborate with your 4-H

Leadership

- Teach 4-H members and adults about service-learning and how to infuse it into every project.
- Organize and stage a “Make a Difference” campaign for your community.

Connections & Events

Presentation Days – Share what you’ve learned with others through a presentation.

Field Days – At these events, 4-H members may participate in a variety of contests related to their project area.

Contact your county 4-H office to determine additional opportunities available, such as a field day.

Curriculum

- Conducting 4-H Community Service Learning Projects
  pubs.ext.vt.edu/category/4-H_citizenship.html
- Citizenship: Public Adventures
  www.4-hmall.org/category/4-hcurriculum.aspx

4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their experiences, learning and development.

4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals.

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Resources

- Curriculum and Resources Innovation Center
  www.theinnovationcenter.org
- National Youth Leadership Council
  www.nylc.org
- National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
  www.servicelearning.org
- Learn and Serve America
  www.learnserveserve.gov/about/service_learning/
- California Department of Education
  www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/sl
- Book: The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects: Over 500 Service Ideas
  by Barbara A. Lewis
- The Search Institute
  www.search-institute.org
- Book: Catch the Spirit, Teen Volunteers Tell How They Made a Difference
  by Susan K. Perry

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