



4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT



In 4-H, service is defined as the voluntary action of an individual or a group of individuals without pay. In this project young people learn caring, leadership and civic engagement. By giving back to their communities, young people can:

- Learn the value of helping others.
- Develop leadership, communication, organizational skills and a sense of empowerment
- Build self-esteem from the positive results of their service.

4-H THRIVE

Help youth:

Light Their Spark

A spark is something youth are passionate about; it really fires them up and gives them joy and energy. Help youth find how this project excites them.

Flex Their Brain

The brain grows stronger when we try new things and master new skills. Encourage youth effort and persistence to

Reach Their Goals

Help youth use the GPS system to achieve their goals.

Goal Selection: Choose one meaningful, realistic and demanding goal.

Pursue Strategies: Create a step-by-step plan to make daily choices that support your goal.

Shift Gears: Change strategies if you're having difficulties reaching your goal. Seek

Reflect

Ask project members how they can use their passion for this project to be more confident, competent and caring. Discuss ways they can use their skills to make a contribution in the community, improve their

Starting Out *Beginner*

- Pick a service activity. Document your activity through pictures, video and written reflection. Keep a ledger of expenses or income if applicable.
- Organize a river clean up
- Donate books or personal items to teens on juvenile detention centers.
- Organize a food drive

Learning More *Intermediate*

- Pick a Service activity by following local news reports to determine issues in your community.
- Collect food the food bank request, deliver food as a group, and help bag food for delivery to clients.
- Plant trees-partner with a local city agency. Attend a tree planting training prior to the date of service.

Exploring Depth *Advanced*

- Build on relationships you have developed with organizations or agencies, inquire what their needs may be, and identify service activities in partnership.
- Contact the food bank and find out what times of year they typically need donations. Organize a food drive during those times.

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



Expand Your Experiences!

Citizenship

- Research and share historic contributions of African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans in your community. Share your research with your club or county.
- Organize a voter registration drive in your community.

Healthy Living

- Learn about water sheds and test the quality of local lakes, rivers, and streams. Provide report to county supervisors, water district or local leaders.
- Determine what the specific needs are for the food bank in your community.
- Organize a gleaning project from neighbors. Donate produce to a local food bank.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics

- Offer computer training to families or senior citizens with limited resources.
- Volunteer at a Science Museum.
- Volunteer to tutor STEM activities afterschool.
- Develop ways for people with visual impairments to experience parks.

Leadership

- Organize a letter writing campaign around issues that you care about.
- Design and create a small discussion group of teens close to your own age. Mentor younger youth in the group.
- Organize a series of community speakers to educate on issues you care about.

Resources

- **Navigating the Election Process for Students and First Time Voters**
<http://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/students-and-first-time-voters/>
- **Corporation for National Community Service**
<https://www.nationalservice.gov/>
- **Annenberg Classroom**
<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/best-civics-sites-for-teachers>
- **Action Civics**
<http://actioncivicscollaborative.org/resources/toolbox/>
- **iCivics (online Civics games)**
<https://www.icivics.org/>

Connections & Events

County or Area citizenship weekend or trainings.

Presentation Day, share what you have learned with others in a presentation.

California Focus – Statewide Civic Engagement Conference

Citizenship Washington Focus—National Civic Engagement Conference

Curriculum

Citizenship and Service Learning

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

4-H Afterschool Resource Guide– Civic Engagement

<http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/124237.pdf>

Citizenship Resources

http://4h.ucanr.edu/Projects/Citizenship/Citizenship_Resources/

4-H Record Book

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

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University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources

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