

Emerald Star Project: Helping Shelter Animals

 Tie-Blanket 

Workshop

Come support local animal shelters by making tie-blankets and learning about volunteering opportunities! Materials will be provided and all blankets will be donated to the Contra Costa County Animal Shelter in Martinez.



Saturday May 6
10-12 pm (Stop by anytime)

St. Perpetua Church
3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette, CA
Contact skylarbarnes7@gmail.com with any questions or fleece donations

2016 - 2017
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Planning the Activity

1. Choosing the Activity:

From the start we knew we wanted to do something related to donating to animal shelters. We all decided it would be easiest for us to teach something that we already knew how to do, and making blankets was a great option. For the past two years in our Community Service/ Foster Project we have had a meeting where we make tie fleece blankets to donate to animal shelters in need. Everyone always enjoys this meeting and it is an easy way to contribute to the shelters. This is why we decided to host a tie-blanket workshop.

2. Arranging the Day:

We decided on having a workshop that lasted several hours allowing anyone to stop by anytime to help. This way we did not restrict it to a specific time that people would have to work around. We also chose a day that not only the three of us did not have any conflicts, but also the county calendar did not have anything else that day, which it did not. Next, we bought the fabric. As teen leaders for our Community Service/ Foster Project we would usually pre-cut about half of the blankets so that the younger members who did not feel comfortable cutting with the fabric scissors could still tie blankets. We would also use the scraps to make braided dog and cat toys which the shelters also appreciated. These are the tactics we used for our workshop (pre-cutting some of the blankets, using the scraps for toys). We also wanted there to be snacks, as many would get hungry in their blanket-making process. Along with snacks, we also decided to bring in some shelter foster kittens to promote animal fostering and educate others on how to care for a foster pet.

3. Getting Permissions:

First we needed to get our project approved by the Emerald Star Project Leader, who was on-board with us and gave us several helpful tips. Next, we had an interview with Emerald Star Committee who also gave us approval and helpful ideas of improvement.

The Committee also brought up that we were planning to hold our event at the County Office, which was going to be closing before the event, and helped us to decide where to host our workshop. The building that we hold our Lamorinda 4-H Community Meetings in at Saint Perpetual seemed like a great option as it also did not cost anything. We e-mailed Saint Perpetual and received permission to use their building at this time. We also gave a presentation to the County Officers at a County Meeting, who brought up it was the same day as a Horse activity, but this did not end up being a large conflict.

4. Donations:

The cost of fabric and snacks cost about \$150, which means we needed donations. We figured a bake sale would be able to cover the cost if effective, and we could hold a second bake sale if the first one did not raise too much. We e-mailed the cake-decorating project leaders and asked if they had any interest in helping bake snacks for our sale. Several members were a huge help and donated an abundance of food. Our bake sale was held in front of a hardware store in the town we live in, Orinda. We knew this area got a lot of traffic on the weekends and decided it would be a great place to hold the sale. In order to sell in front of the Orinda Hardware Store we called the manager and asked if a bake sale would be acceptable (first we went in the store in person, but the manager was out and they told us to call). Luckily, they were very accommodating and even set up a tent, table, and chairs for us. After about two hours we earned \$218.30, much more than we needed for the supplies and did not have to hold another bake sale.

5. Promoting:

We created a flyer that we gave to our club (Lamorinda), and made several announcements about our project at the Community Meetings. We also passed out these fliers to other clubs at the County Meeting where we gave our presentation and asked for others to spread the word at their community. This is how members from other clubs knew about our workshop.

Hosting the Event

1. Setting Up:

We stationed poster boards about how to make the tie blankets and toys around the room and several tables and chairs for people to use when making the supplies. We placed the kittens where everyone could see them and put up signs around them about fostering.

2. People Outcome:

At the start of the event there were only a few people, but after about an hour we had nearly 15 more members stop by to make blankets and toys. A few of the members stayed until the end, the younger and older members all enjoyed playing with the foster kittens and learning about animal fostering.

3. Fabric Outcome:

In the end, we had just the right amount of fabric, as we finished all of the blankets and toys within the last half hour. Many children learned how to braid and made toys.

Educating the Community

In general, our goal of this project was to educate a greater number of 4-Hers about animal fostering and how they could help with shelter animals. We believe we were mostly successful in teaching the group of people who participated in our event about animal fostering. As many people who came had not ever heard of animal fostering before who we helped teach. We also heard from several people that they would like to also foster and even found people to adopt one of the foster kittens we had at the workshop. Overall, we could have educated a larger community of people about animal fostering if we had spread the word more to other clubs about our project.

Overall Conclusions

Overall, this event was successful, we had a large outcome of people, all the blankets and toys were completed, people learned about animal fostering for the first time, and almost everyone seemed to enjoy it. If we were to hold this event again we would want to try to promote to other clubs better. We had about 10 members from various other Contra Costa County clubs, but we would aim for a larger amount of people to come if we were to host this again. It would be helpful to other clubs if we sent out e-mails to announce what we are doing. If hosting this event again, we would want to use the same location as it was not too far from any club. We would probably buy more fabric than we did if we were expecting a larger outcome. Everything else we would most likely use again as it worked successfully for this workshop.

Resources

E-mails: 1. E-mail sent out to the county; 2. E-mail sent to Cake Decorating Project

Calling all Contra Costa County 4-Hers!!!
Emerald Star candidates are hosting a Tie
Blanket workshop on May 6 from 10am-12pm
at St. Perpetua church in Lafayette.

Come support local animal shelters by making
Tie blankets and learn about volunteer
opportunities. All materials will be provided.
Blankets will be donated to the Contra Costa
Animal Shelter in Martinez.

St Perpetua Church
3454 Hamlin Road, Lafayette

Hi,

This is Sierra Barnes from Lamorinda 4-H. I believe that Skylar Barnes talked to you briefly about your Cake Decorating project helping out with our bake sale for our Emerald Star Project. if so, that would be great! We now have a date and time, this Sunday 3/26 from 12-3pm in front of the Orinda Hardware store (56 Moraga Way, Orinda). If your project is able to help out, could you email back how much food your project would be able to bring and what time they would be able to drop them off at? If not, no worries.

Thanks!
Sierra Barnes

Promotion: 1. Flier handed and e-mailed out; 2. Promoting at the bake sale



The Workshop: 1. Members making toys; 2. Everyone after blankets were finished



