

COMMUNITY SERVICE

*“...my hands to larger service, for my club,
my community, my country and my world.”*

Community Service is the act of doing work for others. **Community Service** projects help to reinforce in members the value of giving to others for the good of the community, without expecting anything in return. It is an important part of building citizenship, respect and pride in youth. These efforts also are a perfect way to promote 4-H in your area.

Members should devote 25% of his/her 4-H work to citizenship development and service activities. Each club is expected to complete at least one major service activity each year.

EFFECTIVE 4-H SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Meet important needs
- ▶ Well received and supported by those served
- ▶ Provide for member ownership pride and growth

PLANNING SERVICE ACTIVITY

1. Decide what is needed
2. Determine what should be done
3. Decide what they can do
4. Decide exactly what we'll do and who will do it

“The joy we've gotten out of giving, out-weighs any blue ribbon the kids have received in a show”

- Helen McKee

** Community Service Ideas **

- ◆ Set up and regularly maintain an aquarium in a hospital waiting room, funeral home, nursing home, or at a library
- ◆ Volunteer to help at the local humane society shelter to feed and groom animals and clean cages
- ◆ Provide free on-site child care services for community events such as PTO meetings, elections, etc.
- ◆ Plant and maintain community flower beds in parks, at road intersections, beside bridges, etc.
- ◆ Grow a garden for the needy. Contribute produce from the garden to a community food bank, social service organization, etc.
- ◆ Redecorate the television or recreation room at a community nursing home or hospital
- ◆ Provide lawn care services for elderly and disabled people in your area
- ◆ Designate a part of your group's funds to contribute to a worthy cause
- ◆ Contribute dyed eggs and prizes for a community egg hunt in the spring
- ◆ Conduct a petting zoo, with animals from members projects, at a nursing home or at a mall show
- ◆ Hold an adopt-a-pet week in cooperation with a local pet center or humane society
- ◆ Provide homemade cookies for a local blood drive
- ◆ Offer to do farm safety checks in your community
- ◆ Make contributions or improvements at 4-H Camp
- ◆ Pick up litter along roadsides or help clean up a vacant lot
- ◆ Paint trash cans, fences, and equipment for schools, community centers, fairgrounds, etc.
- ◆ Serve meals to shut-ins
- ◆ Adopt a needy family and provide food and gifts for holidays and special events
- ◆ Contribute time, money, or other resources to support local charity drives
- ◆ Paint or repair mailboxes in rural areas
- ◆ Be creative, brainstorm and use your own ideas