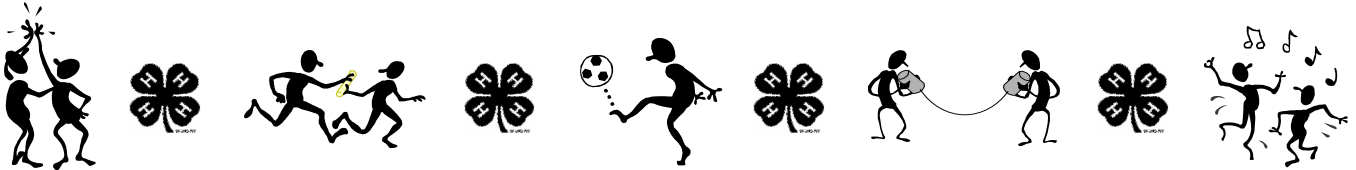




Ohio 4-H Cloverbud Connections



Fall 2008 Issue

For 4-H Cloverbud Volunteers working with grades K-2

Community Service Ideas for Cloverbud Clubs

Cloverbuds is a great place to begin to learn valuable life skills through community service. Learning to serve the community helps children develop empathy for others, build positive relationships and become empowered to make a difference in their world.

Some ideas for community service with Cloverbuds don't have to be large activities, they can be simple and done in one meeting. In our Cloverbuds group we use one meeting around Easter time and we fill plastic Easter eggs with candy and simple items like erasers that can be used in school. The eggs are all filled and put in a basket and delivered to a local community resource center for their kids club.

Around Valentine's Day we visit a local nursing home. The Cloverbuds take the residents Valentines that they have made and sing songs. This type of community service activity takes a little more planning. Contact the Activities Director at your local nursing home and set up a time when your Cloverbuds group can visit. It certainly doesn't have to be a special holiday. Anytime of the year is good to do this. The children get to interact with the residents and have new experiences.

Another community service activity that we have done is to have a children's clothing drive in which the Cloverbuds are encouraged to go through their own clothes and give away those they no longer use. We gather all of these donations and take them to a local program that gives children's clothes to needy families.

Other community service ideas to consider:

- Pack lunch bags with non perishable foods for the local food bank.
- Pick up trash around a local park and separate trash from recyclables, teaching Cloverbuds the importance of recycling and taking care of the earth.

*Tina R. Scheer and Julie Wells,
4-H Cloverbud Advisors for Whetstone Spirit Club,
Franklin County, Ohio.*

Click it, Print it, Do it!

www.cloverbudconnections.osu.edu

Are you looking for an activity to do with your Cloverbuds that is fun and exciting? Then check out the pumpkin making Click it, Print it, Do it activity. Instructions are included for a "Toilet Paper Roll Pumpkin" activity that you can do at your next Cloverbud meeting.

Make a Difference Day Teaches Cloverbuds about Philanthropy

Philanthropy at its core is one person giving his or her resources to make things better for someone or something else. Most of us think of giving money when we hear the word philanthropy but resources can mean money, materials or time.

Make a Difference Day is a great way to begin teaching our 4-H youth members about philanthropy. Cloverbuds can learn about needs in their communities, helping other people, and how they fit into their larger world by creating and implementing a Make a Difference Day project.

Engage your Cloverbud members in identifying a need within their community. We are all more committed to and engaged in charities that we feel personally passionate about and our Cloverbuds are no different. Help your members find something that excites them.

Once the need is identified, talk with your group about what resources they have to offer. Do they have money? Special skills? Time? How do their resources match up to the needs of the group or charity they want to help? No matter our age or financial situation we all have something we can contribute.

The USA Today website (www.usaweekend.com/diffday) has lesson plans and ideas for youth of all ages. This is a great resource to help you guide your Cloverbuds through their project.

The final component, and perhaps the most important, is reflection. Philanthropy makes us feel good and gives us a sense of value and satisfaction. After your project is complete help your Cloverbuds make the connection between feeling good about themselves and making a difference in the lives of others.

*Erin Holmes Wingfield
Resource Development Manager
Ohio 4-H Foundation, Columbus, Ohio.*



What is Make A Difference Day?

Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. The next event is Saturday, October 25, 2008.

Millions have participated. In 2007, 3 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

Your project can be as large or as small as you wish! Look around your community and see what needs to be done. Or let the [Idea Generator](http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/ideas/idea_generator.html) - (http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/ideas/idea_generator.html) help you find a project idea to help your community.

After participating Oct. 25, please send in an [entry form](http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/tools/entryform.html) (<http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/tools/entryform.html>) so you will be counted among the millions of volunteers and be considered for an award.

Cloverbuds and Community Service Go Hand-in-Hand

Have you taken the time to teach your Cloverbuds the 4-H pledge? Teaching the pledge to our youngest 4-H members goes beyond memorizing, to helping them understand what the words mean. Cloverbud members can learn what the pledge of “hands to larger service” actually means by advisors defining “service,” then giving their members examples, and incorporating community service into their club meetings. Service can be explained as giving your time and energy to perform a task that benefits others. By asking Cloverbud members to share how they have helped others at school, church or at home, will illustrate what the 4-H pledge means.

Besides making a pledge to do community service through 4-H, there are numerous reasons for 4-H Cloverbuds to reach out to help others.

- **Fun** - Volunteering is a good way to spend quality time together, while learning from each other, and having fun with their friends, club members, adult volunteers, and/or their families.
- **Self Fulfillment** - 4-H members feel good about themselves and proud of their contributions and sacrifices to help others.
- **Skills** - Youth learn new skills, such as leadership, team work, communication, decision making, planning, time management and responsibility.
- **Career Exploration** – Service experiences can give youth insight into various career fields.
- **Citizenship** - Youth learn how one person’s contributions can make a difference in their community.
- **Diversity** - Learning about diversity and being accepting of others who come from different backgrounds will foster respect for others.
- **Future Volunteer** - Youth who volunteer will continue to volunteer and give back to their community as adults.

4-H and community service has gone hand-in-hand over the last century as members have strived to “make the best better” in their community. The youngest members, 4-H Cloverbuds can “learn by doing” community service with their advisors, families, and 4-H friends. Service projects can make an impact not only on the community, but a lasting impression on our youth as they develop into contributing citizens. It is their little hands with your big hands guiding them that will make our world a better place to live!

*Nadine S. Fogt
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development
Ohio State University Extension
Fayette County, Ohio.*



4-H Pledge

I pledge

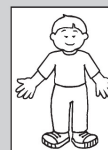
My Head to clearer thinking,
(right hand points to forehead)



My Heart to greater loyalty,
(right hand over heart)



My Hands to larger service, and
(arms slightly bent, palms up)



My Health to better living,
(arms at sides)






For My Club, My Community,
My Country, and My World.



Campus Connections

Hello again! It feels good to make another 4-H Cloverbud Connection with you!

Believe it or not, the leaves will be changing soon into your favorite colors as autumn approaches. Autumn is a time to reflect as the past year begins to wind down and we prepare for the fall season. The memories that we bring with us from 2008 are important to us. Children have special memories just as adults do. Let's think about how 4-H Cloverbud children can utilize memories in doing activities that will be fun and positive for healthy development. Here are some suggestions:

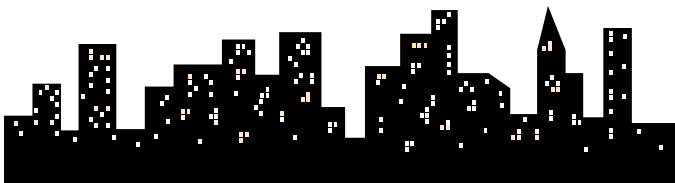
-  Children can draw a picture of a special memory. For example: playing in a lake during vacation, climbing their favorite tree, or visiting Grandma and Grandpa.
-  Have them write words or phrases with that picture describing the drawing - have the older kids help the younger ones as needed with their writings.
-  Have the children verbally share with the group what the picture means to them - ask questions about the picture to help stimulate discussion.

Think about using these activities with your 4-H Cloverbud members. These types of activities consist of drawing, writing, and speaking. All three actions will help 4-H Cloverbud children improve skills of self-understanding, getting along with others, and learning to learn.

Thanks for all you do as a 4-H Cloverbud volunteer to improve the lives of children throughout Ohio!!

Scott D. Scheer, Ph.D.

*State Extension Specialist, Preadolescent Education
4-H Youth Development, The Ohio State University.*



Hot Cocoa Cones

Ingredients:

- 3/4 c. cocoa mix
- 2 (6x12-inch) cone-shaped cellophane bags (available at party stores)
- 2 clear rubber bands
- scissors
- 1/4 c. mini chocolate chips
- 3/4 c. mini marshmallows
- 1 large red gumdrop
- ribbons/bows (optional)



Pour the cocoa mix into one of the bags. Close the bag with a clear rubber band, trim bag to 1 inch above the band. Place the cocoa-filled bag into the second bag, flatten its top. Layer the chocolate chips and marshmallows and top with gumdrop. Secure bag with the other rubber band. Add ribbon and bows as desired.

*Cindy Shuster, Extension Educator,
FCS/Co-County Director,
OSU Extension, Perry County, Ohio.*



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Editors: Bruce P. Zimmer, Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development, Monroe County, 101 North Main Street, Room 17, Woodsfield, Ohio 43793, Phone - (740) 472-0810, E-mail - zimmer.2@osu.edu; Joyce A. Shriner, Extension Educator, Family & Consumer Sciences, Hocking County, 150 North Homer Avenue, Logan, Ohio, 43138-1730, Phone - (740)385-3222, E-mail - shriner.3@osu.edu.

Design & Production: Jennie Shaw, Extension Office Assistant, OSU Extension, Monroe County.

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