



Teen Leadership 20

Community Service

Intended Audience:

- Teens

Lesson Objectives:

Participants will:

- Understand the connection between service and 4-H.
- Know there is a 4-H project book focused on performing service in communities.
- Know how to “brainstorm” to identify a service project in their community.

Time: 20 minutes

Equipment and supplies:

- Ohio 4-H Project Book “My Hands to Larger Service – Teen Leaders Building Our Communities”
- Large Post-it paper or posterboard
- Bright colored markers

Do Ahead:

- Review Lesson
- Gather equipment and supplies

BACKGROUND

“I pledge my hands to larger service...for my club, my community, my country and my world.” These words in the 4-H pledge ring true when youth become involved in performing community service projects. An individual member or a 4-H club can make a difference. For more than 200 years, 4-H members have been involved in service projects to benefit their community. This started when A.B Graham, the founder of 4-H, engaged his young members in beautifying their schools.

Teens can play an important part in their communities (or beyond) by identifying a need at the local level then developing a plan to help solve the problem. The plan can include a team or an entire 4-H club organizing and implementing a service project that is meaningful to the recipients, as well as those involved in conducting the project. Upon completion of the project, youth should allow time for reporting the impact of the project after evaluating it. An excellent time for evaluation and reflection of a project’s outcomes and impacts is during a celebratory event for the participants and benefactors. A service project can make a significant change in a person’s life or for an entire community. It can also be an opportunity to build leadership skills in the teens that are responsible for the service project.

WHAT TO DO

Activity:

- Discuss what community service is and ask why the group should do a service project in the community. Share Ohio 4-H project book “My Hands to Larger Service.”
- Divide participants into small groups of 4-7 teens and direct each group to a large post-it paper on wall. Each group should have a bright marker.
- Ask each group to brainstorm a list of 10 service projects they could do in the community. Next have them narrow the list down to their top project.
- Have each group share their top project and why it is needed in the community.
- After all the groups have shared, everyone will vote on the identified projects for the club to organize and implement.



Sources:

- Fogt, N. (2015). Ohio 4-H community service officer's handbook. Retrieved from http://www.ohio4h.org/sites/ohio4h/files/imce/Families/officer_resources/Community%20Service%20Handbook.pdf
- Bruynis, K., Fogt, N., Rockey, J., Sharp, J., Takacs, M., & Turner, C. (2014). *My Hands to Larger Service: Teen Leaders Building Our Communities*. Columbus, OH: The Ohio State University.
- Ohio 4-H Youth Development. (n.d.). Retrieved February 04, 2016, from <http://www.ohio4h.org/about/history-4-h>

Prepared by:

Nadine Fogt, Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development
OSU Extension Fayette County
Phone: 740.335.1150
Email: fogt.12@osu.edu

Reviewed by:

Ohio 4-H Teen Leadership Design Team Members

TALK IT OVER**Reflect:**

- What service projects have you been involved with in the past?
- From the group brainstorming, what service project ideas were new to you?
- Is there an issue or problem that you feel strongly about that you would be interested in helping with? How did you learn about it?
- How can you motivate others to get involved with a service project?
- How do you think helping with a service project can benefit you?

Apply:

- Elect a Community Service Officer or form a committee within your group to help plan a service project at the beginning of the year.
- As your group begins to plan for the upcoming year's program, think of how you can incorporate service projects into your calendar. You can plan simple, short-term service activities at each meeting, along with a larger project that takes more time and resources.
- Share with others about your experiences on performing a meaningful service project that benefits others.
- Discuss how your group's project can be improved or expanded.

ADDITIONAL LINKS

Ohio 4-H Clubs Advisors' Handbook

<http://advisorshandbook.ohio4h.org/learning/servicelearning.html>

Contact the county OSU Extension office for additional service project ideas. Often agencies contact the 4-H Extension Educator asking for volunteers to help with projects.

Please take time to complete the Participant and Facilitator evaluations, found online at go.osu.edu/TeenLeadership20.