

Title: The “X” Factor... Extreme Makeovers of 4-H Community Service Projects

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Revised October, 2005 from “The Strongest Link Lesson Plan”

Objectives:

Participants will:

1. Explore what motivates youth to perform a community service project.
2. Learn the benefits of youth performing a meaningful community service project.
3. Identify the five most popular 4-H service projects performed by 4-H clubs.
4. Learn five essential steps to completing a meaningful community service project.
5. Understand the importance of involving youth in the entire process of a community service project as linked to the eight critical elements of the Ohio 4-H Experience.
6. Develop new ideas for community service projects for youth participants.
7. Develop standard popular service projects into creative, fun, educational, and meaningful projects by using a five-step process utilizing youth in all phases.

Best Time to Teach:

- Anytime of the year
- Preferably before beginning a community service project

Best Location/Facility Requirements:

- Classroom, meeting room, or comfortable site with seating

Materials/Equipment Needed:

- Large sheets of paper (flip chart size)
- Flip Chart
- Markers
- Ball of string
- Large Bounce Ball or Beach Ball
- Legos, building blocks, or playdough

TIME NEEDED:

- 90 minutes
- May be taught in two sections

Handouts needed:

- Cox, Kathryn and Culp, Ken III. “Involving Teens as Leaders.” Extension Factsheet 4H-021-99.
- Dalzell, Julie. “What is 4-H Youth Development?” Extension Factsheet 4H-002-99.
- Fogt, Nadine. “YOUth Are the Strongest Link to 4-H Community Service Projects.” Handout.
- Woodrum, Woody. “Community Service.” Extension Factsheet 4H-012-99.
- USA Weedend. “Make A Difference Day. Project Tools for Teachers. Project Tools for teens. Link to Friends.” Retrieved from <http://usaweekend.com/difday/index.html>

PRESENTATION

INTRODUCTION:

- ♣ Team building game – Make a spider web using ball of string. Form a circle with participants and pass a ball of string to each member. When the member receives the ball, member shares their name and a favorite community service project with the group. Extra – bounce a large ball on the web, challenging the team to bounce a certain number of times without it touching the floor. Drop sections of the string to show importance of teamwork.

OR

- ♣ Share with a partner(s) what the most meaningful community service your 4-H club has been involved with. Explain what made the experience beneficial.

1. Why should 4-H members perform community service projects?

- ♣ The 4-H pledge “hands to greater service...for my club, my community, my country, and my world”
- ♣ One of the eight critical elements - “Opportunity to value and practice service for others”
- ♣ Community service can be linked to the other seven critical elements in the Ohio 4-H experience
- ♣ Youth learn new life skills - leadership, team work, communication skills, organization skills, decision making skills, citizenship, budget and resource management
- ♣ Builds self-esteem and self worth of youth participants
- ♣ Facilitates positive relationships between adults and youth
- ♣ Teens learn marketable skills and also network with community leaders
- ♣ Youth are a valuable resource for service projects saving communities money and time
- ♣ Youth who perform community service projects are more likely to volunteer as adults in their community

APPLICATION:

A. Get to know the team:

Spider Web Game – Each team member is important to building a strong web.

OR

Small Group Discussion: Have the large group break into small groups of either two or three people.

- Ask the small groups to share with each other a community service project that their 4-H Club participated in that was meaningful.
- Ask why it was meaningful.
- Ask who benefited from the experience.

Why?

B. Review why 4-H Clubs perform community service projects.

September 11th and Katrina are etched into all of our minds vividly. Many of us reacted at first with tears to what we saw on television. Then reality settled in and we reacted by asking “What can I (we) do to help?” The response was almost immediate from across the United States and the world.

History - During the last 100 years of 4-H Youth Development, 4-H’ers have responded to those in need. A prime example of early examples of 4-H members to give to their country happened during World War II, when they donated 1,355 hours in one year as farm labor, the collection of tin cans, bailing wire, waste fats, and silk and nylon. These youth bought War Bonds and Stamps, besides donating to the Red Cross. 4-H members have made impacts during many crises.

Reflect on the 4-H pledge and it’s meaning for a minute with your members and advisors. Examine the benefits of performing community service through 4-H for: youth, adults, and the community.

Discuss how many 4-H project books have a community service requirement.

Making the Best Better

2. "How did YOUth Do That?!"

- Divide into small groups of three or more.
- Role play: One person is the 4-H advisor, one person is the parent, and the rest are 4-H members. Secretly assign groups to have one pushy parent, controlling advisor, a group with members totally in control.
 - Give each group building blocks and five minutes to build a building and tell the purpose of the building.
 - Process the groups' dynamics and interactions with advisor, parent, and members. Compare this to real life examples of interaction of club planning.

3. Why do youth volunteer?

- Ask, "Why do youth volunteer?"
 1. Makes them feel good.
 2. To have fun with friends.
 3. To build their resume.

"HOLY COW!" That's simple.

4. 4-H clubs perform numerous service projects. Teams, can you name the five most popular service projects performed by 4-H clubs?

1. Pick up trash
2. Plant flowers
3. Visit nursing homes
4. Donate food to the pantry
5. Plant trees

Traditionally, how have youth been involved in these projects?

5. YOUTH...Are the Strongest Link... to Community Service

A. Five Step Process in performing Community Service Projects (CS):

- ⚙ Decision Making
- ⚙ Planning
- ⚙ Implementation
- ⚙ Evaluation
- ⚙ Publicity and Reporting

B. Who's involved in each step?

- ☺ 4-H Club Members
- ☺ 4-H Club Advisors & Members
- ☺ 4-H Parents, Advisors, & Members
- ☹ Only 4-H Advisors
- ☹ Only 4-H Parents & Advisors

(Application Process Continued)

C. What are the different roles taken on by adult advisors, parents, and 4-H members in a club setting?

How do these roles effect the outcome and impact. Is it that the project was completed? Reflect on the whole meaning of the community service project you may have been involved in. Break into small groups to share strengths and weaknesses of the project. What were the highlights and what were the challenges? Share these with the entire group? Is there any commonalities? Or patterns emerging?

Discuss the importance of a community service project, not only to the receivers, but also the benefits young people receive from volunteering. Benefits include learning new skills, networking, establishing relationships with adults, communication skills, budget, educational, resume building, fun social activity, and the feeling of self-worth.

Discuss the importance of traditional, popular community service projects to the community.

As you reflect on your community service project think about how the project took shape. How did you decide to do that project? Who was involved in the decision making? Was it a project that was repeated from the year before? Did the 4-H advisors suggest the project and the members vote on the project? Was there any discussion?

Most importantly, what roles did the youth play in the entire process of the community service project? Were the youth involved in all phases or did they just show up to perform the work? How did they feel about their role?

Take time to think about how to organize a successful project. You can break it into five stages linking youth to all parts of a meaningful community service project. Youth need to feel ownership to benefit the most from any project.

C. Ways to involve youth in each step.

☆ Decision Making

- Ideas of youth - 4-H'ers discuss ideas
- Brainstorming - list of ideas
- Youth assess community needs/issues
- Survey
- List ideas on poster & give members 5 sticker dots to vote on their favorite ideas.

☆ Planning

- Each member has a role in planning
- List things to be done (involve teens)
- Timeline for project
- Each youth volunteers for a job
- List what, when, where, how, cost for each job
- Think about safety issues
 - first aid kit,
 - emergency phone numbers,
 - medical history & release forms
- Permission from anyone involved
- Publicity of event –
 - who, what, where, how, why

☆ Implementation (Doing)

- Who is doing what
- Where
- When
- Publicity and reporting
- Use planning timeline

☆ Evaluation

By: Members
Volunteers & Advisors
Community Members
Other key stakeholders

- Make time to REFLECT
- Journal
- Articles, discussion, survey
- Document

☆ Publicity and Reporting

- Report who was involved
- Report who it benefited
- Thank you to anyone involved
 - Media
 - Letters/cards of appreciation
- When appropriate, inform community leaders about community service project & impact
- Celebrate your accomplishments

D. Why Involve Teens in ALL five-steps

Provide OSU Extension Fact Sheet 4H-012-99 on Community Service and Fact Sheet 4H-021-99 on Teen Leadership. Discuss why teens should be involved in decision making. Hand out OSU Extension Fact Sheet 4H-002-hand vote.

When **decision making**, model a different way of voting by having the group brainstorm ideas and record their ideas on poster paper. Tape to wall all the ideas and have group vote using "Dot " system. Each member votes with 5 dots for their favorite projects. Discuss voting with dots vs. a hand vote. Are members influenced by who has raises their hand? Follow the leader?






Break the ideas into the short term & long term projects with the benefits & challenges of each service projects. Discuss.

E. Team Work with Youth

Planning: In March, the sports pages are covered with the predictions of who will get to the "Big Dance," the men's college basketball tournament. Readers focus in on the present game and those looming, not thinking what came before all those games. A game plan was drawn up by coaches, players, administrators, etc. As adults, we sometimes take for granted all the little steps in getting to the big dance. With a community service project it is important to hand over the reins to the youth when planning the project. As adults, we need sometimes to sit back in the saddle and ride a few bumps to get to end of the road. The ride will be a success if the youth holding the reins learns as they guide the horse forward. The key is to let the youth decide the direction of a project. Provide them with the proper equipment for a successful ride. Handout "Make A Difference Day" Guides - Teach/Adult Volunteer and Teen. Discuss how clubs may use these guides to supplement their Ohio 4-H Factsheets.

6. Extreme Makeovers of Community Service Projects

The five most popular projects are:

-  Planting Flowers
-  Picking up Trash
-  Donating Food
-  Visiting Nursing Homes
-  Planting Trees

These are projects are needed by the community, but could use an extreme makeover.

A. Makeover Extreme Makeovers

- Hand-out work sheets with a designated CS project for teams to work through utilizing the 5-Step process.
- Each team should have an advisor, a parent, and members.
- Challenge the team to include educational components in the 5-Steps and a social activity. Use extension resources.
- Record what the team is going to do for each step and who is doing what on poster paper to share with other teams.

B. Discuss other possibilities to make these CS projects meaningful to the members involved.

HOLY COW! HOW DID YOUth Do That?!

- By giving youth the tools, **YOU**
- ★ Build Positive Relationships with Youth
 - ★★ Build Bridges to their Communities
 - ★★★ Build Skills for their Future

MOVE THAT BUS! YOUth coming through!

“And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country.” - John F. Kennedy

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E. Youth Team Work (continued)

Implementation of a project is important, but can only be successful with good planning and the enthusiasm of the youth involved. What motivates youth to perform community service?

1. Having fun
2. Helping others
3. Making new friends

Evaluation and Reporting a project through different means brings meaning to the project. Who did it benefit? Did it really make a difference? How could we do it better? What comments did you hear from those who were the ones we were trying to help? How did you feel during the project? How did you feel after the project was completed? Would you do it again? Journals and group discussions are an important part of bringing closure and meaning to a project.

F. Extreme Makeovers of Service Projects

Discuss the importance of traditional projects to the community, but also discuss some of the shortcomings. For example, are youth involved in any of the planning or are they just expected to show up to provide the manual labor?

Educational tools for the projects.

Are there educational components involved, i.e. teaching about nursing residents' challenges – eyesight, hearing, communication skills, etc. Extension educators can be utilized to teach about topics. Another example is planting flowers by utilizing extension resources – 4-H books and professionals. What type of flowers to plant for the designated areas – sunny or shady.

Incorporate social activities into project.

Remember teens perform service projects because it is fun, so don't forget to plan a social activity in the project. A canned food drive can be held in conjunction with a dance with the admission being a canned food item.

YOUTH are the “X” Factor to Extraordinary Community Service Projects!