

Community Service Project Ideas

**CITIZENSHIP**

 Advocate for youth issues with governing bodies.

 Organize a Holiday Gift Center – where those who can’t afford to buy gifts for their families can

go to get gifts, clothes, toys, household items, food. Contact schools, doctors, and churches to refer needy families.

 Organize a community service class at the fair, where all 4-H’ers are encouraged to make and

exhibit items that will later be donated to charities.

 Write a proposal asking that a vacant lot be turned into a playground or garden. Follow up, and

offer to help build the playground or plant and care for the garden.

 Write a proclamation for community beautification week. Get the Mayor to sign it. Distribute

copies to newspapers, radio stations, organizations, and businesses. Get kids to volunteer.

**CULTURAL EDUCATION**

 Adopt a new immigrant family – help them connect to the community.

 Make ethnic holiday cookies for shelters, hospitals, or nursing homes.

 Organize a cultural festival to celebrate and share diversity (and food)!

**GLOBAL EDUCATION**

 Investigate needs, publicize, collect and process items needed for disaster relief.

 Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

**INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING**

 Make monthly visits to a Senior Pal (non-relatives, not living in a nursing home).

 Establish a once-a-week visit and activity time at a nursing home.

 Collect oral histories from the residents of a nursing home, print and share them.

 Help an elderly neighbor – mow, pull weeds, shovel snow, paint, etc.

**UNDERSTANDING PHYSICAL AND MENTAL LIMITATIONS**

 Older 4-H’ers conduct special 4-H program for institutionalized handicapped.

 Do a presentation or activity for a class of physically or mentally challenged students.

**COMMUNICATION ARTS**

 Read or tell stories to preschool children.

 Tutor younger kids to improve their reading & writing skills.

**PERFORMING ARTS**

 Hold a talent show in your local community.

 Go caroling at the homes of the elderly and shut-ins.

**VISUAL ARTS**

 Make holiday cards for people in nursing homes, hospitals – year round.

 Make small seasonal decorations for shut-ins, nursing homes, hospitals.

 Design and paint a mural in a public place with permission!

**CHILD DEVELOPMENT, CHILD CARE AND BABYSITTING**

 Volunteer to help in preschools, after school child care.

 Lead a 4-H project for kids in after school programs.

**CLOTHING AND TEXTILES**

 Recycle discarded clothing into useful items for the needy.

 Make quilts for overseas, homeless.

**CONSUMER EDUCATION**

 Deliver demonstrations, presentations on consumer issues.

 Organize, promote, and volunteer in food recovery efforts to benefit those in need.

 Organize a neighborhood crime watch.

**HOME ENVIRONMENT**

 Help shut-ins with needed home maintenance, and renovation.

 Clean up or paint over graffiti.

**PARENTING AND FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION**

 Volunteer to help with childcare for those who can’t afford to pay.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

 Deliver stewardship presentations to elementary classes.

 Participate in a stream clean-up.

 Help plant trees in the community or as buffers along the stream.

 Encourage homeowners to test home well drinking water supplies.

**ENERGY**

 Deliver demonstrations on energy conservation to schools, PTA, service clubs, etc.

 Offer to do home surveys to advise on weatherproofing and energy conservation.

**FORESTS, RANGELAND AND WILDLIFE**

 Organize an Arbor Day Celebration – plant trees in public areas. Get permission!

 Plant wildlife food plots in public and private lands. Get permission!

 Advocate for parks, greenbelts.

 Plant wildflowers in public right-a-ways. Get permission!

 Establish demonstration plot of native plants in a park. Get permission!

**OUTDOOR EDUCATION/RECREATION**

 Conduct a day camp for youth in poor neighborhoods. Partner with a youth organization.

 Organize a “Volksmarch” of historic parts of your area, at a beautiful time of year.

 Collect for, build and install playground equipment.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

 Organize an Adopt a Highway Campaign.

 Promote a special summer week for citywide cleanup.

 Demonstrate home and yard composting throughout the community.

 Get your school to start a paper or aluminum-recycling program.

**CHEMICAL HEALTH**

 Present anti-drug use programs for schools.

 Organize “kick butts” (anti-smoking) program at school.

**MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

 Advocate or raise funds for mental & emotional health services in the community.

 Organize and staff a youth crisis hotline.

**FOODS AND NUTRITION**

 Take food baskets to shut-ins.

 Help cook and serve at homeless center or shelter.

 Promote and take part in food recovery programs in restaurants, etc. for the needy.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**

 Deliver presentations on health and exercise to teens, schools, service clubs, etc.

 Establish a fitness course in a public park. Get permission!

 Organize a bike hike. Share health tips with participants.

 Sponsor a community blood drive.

**SAFETY**

 Present safety demonstrations and programs at schools.

 Conduct safety surveys at homes, farms, tagging safety hazards.

 Sponsor a hunter safety course in the community.

 Campaign for streetlights or crosswalks at dangerous intersections.

**CAREER EXPLORATION AND EMPLOYABILITY**

 Volunteer with service agencies that allow you to explore careers of interest.

**CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS**

 Serve on church, community boards and committees.

**ECONOMICS, BUSINESS AND MARKETING**

 Help organize a benefit auction.

**INTRODUCTORY 4-H PROJECTS**

 Clean up a public place, such as a park, school grounds, courthouse lawn. Get Permission!

**HOBBIES AND COLLECTIBLES**

 Display your collection at a nursing home.

 Find a younger kid who needs a friend, and introduce them to your hobby

**LEADERSHIP SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

 Serve on church, community boards and committees.

 Serve as chairs/superintendents at the county fair.

 Serve as a junior leader in your club.

**LEISURE EDUCATION**

 Provide special holiday activities for nursing homes.

 Assess community leisure needs, campaign with authorities for needed activities.

**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**

 Identify something you are not good at and volunteer to improve your skills.

 Volunteer with groups with whom you share an interest.

**READING LITERACY**

 Collect used children’s books and make them available to those in need.

 Set up a book exchange. Read or tutor younger children.

**SOCIAL RECREATION SKILLS**

 Lead bingo and other games for nursing home residents.

 Organize and conduct community celebrations.

**VALUES CLARIFICATION/CHARACTER EDUCATION**

 Send letters to the editor and call in shows reacting to local concerns of youth.

 Give testimony before city, county, school boards & councils to address problems facing youth.

**AGRICULTURE EDUCATION**

 Conduct a farm day for nursing home residents, schools, day care centers, etc.

 Assist with agriculture-related community events.

 Conduct a chick embryology program at a school, pre-school, day care center.

**ANIMALS**

 Take pets to nursing homes.

 Raise guide dogs or helper puppies.

 Volunteer at the animal shelter.

 Get involved with the humane society.

**PLANTS**

 Establish flower and vegetable gardens at nursing home. Help residents care for them.

 Establish kid community gardens in a vacant lot. Get Permission!

 Plant flowerbeds in public places. Get Permission!

**SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LITERACY**

 Present science demonstrations in elementary schools.

 Tutor younger kids who have trouble in science.

**TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING**

 Repair and paint a house for a needy family.

 Mentor young children to introduce them to computers.

 Make wooden holiday gifts for needy children.

**PHYSICAL SCIENCES**

 Demonstrate model rocketry to younger youth and explain the science behind it.

Written by Nadine Fogt, OSU Extension, 4-H Educator, Fayette County.

*Ohio 4-H Clubs Advisors Handbook – Learning the 4-H Way – Community Service & Service Learning* [*http://advisorshandbook.ohio4h.org/learning/servicelearning.html*](http://advisorshandbook.ohio4h.org/learning/servicelearning.html)