

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.

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