

Planning A Successful Community Service Learning Project

Directions: Use these questions to guide an open discussion with your 4-H Club. Remember: The purpose of an open discussion is to come up with as many community service ideas as possible while determining some parameters for the community service project.

1. What types of community service projects have you participated in?
2. What did you like about these community service projects?
3. How much time are you willing to give to a service project?
4. What need(s) do you see in the community that the club could help with through a community service project?
5. Are there other groups, organizations or businesses who might partner with our 4-H club to conduct this community service project? If so, who might they be?
6. Based on the types of community service projects brought forth by the membership, discuss each community service project. Time commitment, resources needed, location, benefit to the community, number of people (youth and adults) to conduct the community service project, etc.
7. Discuss each potential community service project. Ask the club membership to vote on their top three. Once the top three are determined, discuss these three projects again before making a final decision.
8. Develop a plan with the club membership to carry out the community service project.
9. Review the community service project plan with the entire club membership and inform parents/legal guardians of the plan.
10. Conduct community service project as outlined in plan and take time to reflect on experience with club membership through discussions and dialog.
11. Share community service project work with local media, community leaders through news coverage, letters, photographs, scrapbook, etc.

Written by Tom Hopkins, OSU Extension, 4-H Educator, Ashtabula County.