4-H VOLUNTEER INFORMATION SERIES

Nebraska 4-H Youth Development

Community Service Projects

An important activity for 4-H members is taking part in community service projects. These projects provide a great opportunity for 4-H members to develop positive relationships in the community as well as enhance personal growth and satisfaction.

Plan for Successful Projects
Steps to help make community service projects successful and fun:

1. Decide what is needed in the community/county.
2. Decide what types of activities members have interest in and abilities to do.
3. List all the activities that have been suggested.
4. Discuss the possibilities and rank them in order of importance and interest. Select the project.
5. Develop a plan of action.
6. Carry out the project as planned.
7. Record the members' efforts with photos, videotapes, or written notes.
8. Monitor the activities and make adjustments as needed. Take time to discuss the successes and shortcomings of the project and ideas for improvement.
9. Write a summary of the experience after completion. Share it with the media and the county 4-H staff. Put together a scrapbook record of the activity.
10. Celebrate! Feel good about the contribution to the community and the positive learning gained by the 4-H members.

DO encourage members to get involved in all phases of the project including planning, conducting, and evaluating the project. **DON'T** do it all for them.

Source: Diem, K. G. Revised 2001. *New Jersey 4-H leader Training Series*- 10 Steps Toward Performing a Successful Community Service Project .Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Extension is a Division of the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln cooperating with the Counties and the United States Department of Agriculture.

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