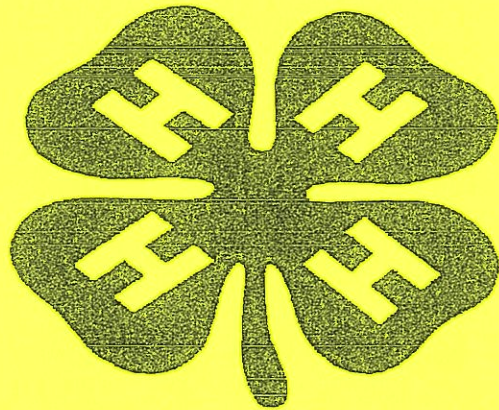


Community Service....

Service to the Community



Vermillion County 4-H



# VERMILLION COUNTY 4-H COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Community Service 4-H project is an opportunity for you and/or your 4-H club to really make a positive impact on the community. The guidelines are as follows:

All divisions should turn in a completed record sheet AND a notebook or poster explaining/illustrating your service work.

**BEGINNER:** grades 3-5.....Complete 6-8 hours of community service

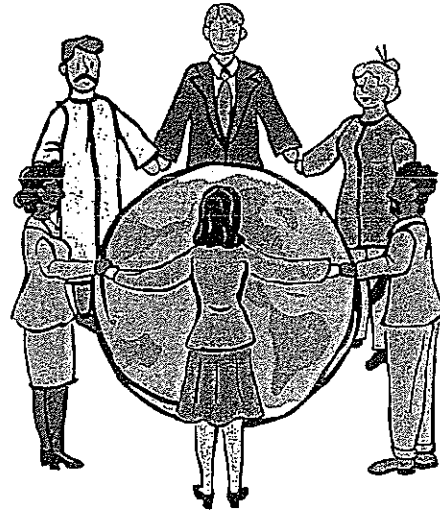
**INTERMEDIATE:** grades 6-8.....Complete 8-12 hours of community service

**ADVANCED:** grades 9 and up.....Complete 13 or more hours of community service.

Service hours do not have to all be towards the same cause. It can be a variety of service projects combined.

**USE YOUR IMAGINATION!**

Included in this handbook are some notebook tips and also some ideas for community service. Talk with your parents, teachers, ministers, 4-H leaders and you're sure to discover a world of opportunities waiting for your help!



## ***WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?***

**COMMUNITY:** people with common interests living in a particular area.

**SERVICE:** the work performed by one that benefits another; contribution to the welfare of others.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:** helping others for the common good without expectation or acceptance of payment in return; the beginning of developing altruistic behaviors.

**NOTE:** If you/your club receives payment for a service provided, those hours should not be counted toward completion of the Community Service project.

Your 4-H leader has additional Community Service information included in the annual Leader's Guide Handbook.

## **NOTEBOOK TIPS.....**



For exhibit in every division, your completed and signed record sheet must be included in your notebook.



Before beginning work on any 4-H project, wash your hands!



A Community Service notebook should include step-by-step actions on how the project was completed.



It should be typed or very neatly handwritten in ink.



Though not necessary, pictures of the service project in action certainly add to the overall exhibit.



If you made phone calls, you should include who was called and how far in advance of the service date. If flyers were made, you should include a copy of the flyer.

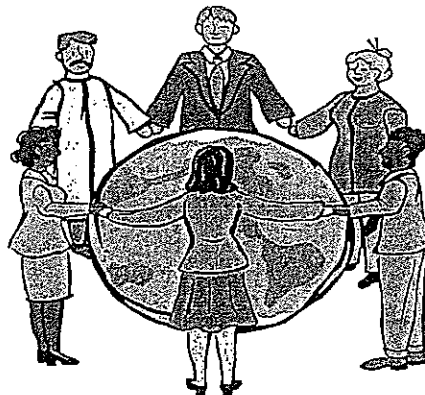


As with any project, school or 4-H, it should be as neat and clean and as thorough as possible.



You should continue to use the same notebook for each year that you complete the Community Service project. Simply put the most current year's work/pages in the front. This will be a great record for you in your later years in 4-H. Your positive impact on the community as a result of being in 4-H will be documented.

## ***WORKING TOGETHER, WE REALLY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!***



***BY COMPLETING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT,  
YOU ARE MAKING A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE RIGHT HERE  
IN VERMILLION COUNTY!***

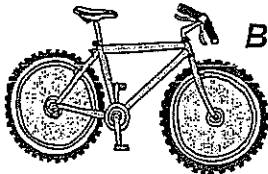


## COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS



**Adopt A Highway:** For state highways, call the Indiana Dep't of Transportation to start the process at 317-232-5509.

**Adopt a Park:** Pick up trash on a regular basis at a local park, plant flowers, paint equipment (w/ permission), do minor repairs.



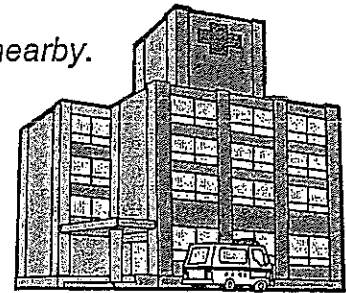
**Bikes for Tykes:** Collect donated bikes (some may need minor repairs) and donate to needy children. To help identify children, contact township trustees, social workers, school counselors, etc.

**Birthday Parties:** Shelters for families and single parents have plenty of needs. How about having your group host a monthly birthday party for the children of these shelters? Perhaps a local grocery would donate cake and ice cream. Contact the director of the shelter to arrange an appropriate time. Group members could plan appropriate party games. Be sure to leave some time for the kids to get to know one another and for clean-up.



**Child Care:** Most parents are in need of child care at some point. Some don't have the luxury of family members nearby to care for little ones. Have your group organize a "Parents' Night/Day Out" once or twice a year. They can help plan games, snacks, meals, etc. Be sure there's adequate adult supervision in case of an emergency.

**Hospital Visits:** Most communities have a hospital or one nearby. Check with the volunteer coordinator to learn where your group could help fill a void. Perhaps it's visiting children in the hospital to give Mom or Dad a break; or maybe playing board games/cards with children in waiting rooms (it is stressful for kids, too.); or perhaps organizing a toy drive for the E.R. or children's wing.



**Clean Windshields:** Provide a windshield cleaning service in a designated parking lot. Be sure to get prior permission. Be sure the youth do a neat job and are respectful of the vehicle. You may want to leave a note (great marketing for your group!)...it can be short and friendly. "The youth from the Country Clovers 4-H club are seeing more clearly now. We hope you do too! For more information about \_\_\_\_\_ County 4-H, please call \_\_\_\_\_"

**Community Service Hours:** Most city councils or county commissioner meetings have a space on their agenda for new business. Anyone can respond at this point. Take your group to the meeting and offer them 200 hours (20 hours, let your group pick) of community service on projects determined by the council. Some councils like new business submitted in writing. A quick phone call to city hall or the commissioner's office will inform you of the requirements that need to be met.



**Family/Group Photos:** Have a Polaroid camera and some film and have your group hang out at a community park. Offer to take family/group pictures at no charge. This is so simple that anyone can do it! Be sure to introduce yourself and the group you represent then ask permission to take the picture. If possible, a set of labels printed in advance listing the date, park, and taken by \_\_\_\_\_ (group name) to put on the back of the picture is a nice touch for the family.

**Food Pantry Stocking:** Have your group bring a canned good/non-perishable to each meeting throughout the year. At each meeting, designate a new person to take the food to the local pantry. After all, people need food all through the year, not just during the holiday season.

**Gift Wrapping:** Challenge each family in your group to donate at least 2 rolls of wrapping paper, a bag of bows/ribbon, and scotch tape. Contact a local store to offer a free gift wrapping service. While folks wait for their packages to be wrapped, serve free cookies and drink.

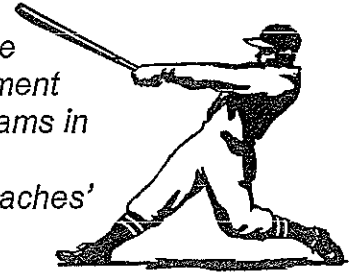


**Office Flower Blitz:** Contact a couple of florists and ask them to keep you informed when they have too many flowers because of a canceled order or an over purchase. See if they'll sell the flowers at a greatly reduced price. Select an office(s) as your target. You can choose one that has 3 employees or 50, it's up to your group! Purchase the flowers and include a handwritten note. Contact the boss/manager and arrange a time of delivery then have your group personally present every employee w/ a flower and note.

**Rake and Run: (or Snow Shovel and Run!)** Travel in a group in and stop at places that are in obvious need of raking/snow removal. The group bounds out of their vehicles and quickly does their work, hopefully before the people inside notice. Be sure to have plenty of leaf bags ready. Bring your own rake/shovel and treat the property with respect. Dress appropriately and in layers. If folks get upset because the leaves have been bagged, simply redistribute them over the yard.



**Sports Equipment Drive:** Many low-income families cannot afford the registration fees of athletic leagues, let alone the equipment needed to participate. In advance of the change of seasons, have your group conduct a used sports equipment drive and distribute these to the organizers of sports programs in your area. Example: In Feb/March have a drive for baseball/softball gloves, bats, balls. Present these at a coaches' meeting to be given to youth who need them.



**Fundraiser:** Have a fundraiser and donate proceeds to organization/cause voted on by the club members.

**Visit Nursing Homes:** Have a Christmas in July party and sing carols, make party favors, decorate, etc. Make or donate birdfeeders to a nursing home, help install and keep filled.



**Fire Departments:** Help local fire departments or other organizations with a fundraiser/dinner by cleaning tables, serving, helping out when needed.

**Kids Helping Kids:** Help needy families start school out on the right foot by helping provide school supplies for needy children. Donate these to the school and teachers/counselors can be sure that they get to the children who need supplies.

#### **KINDNESS COUNTS!**

What started as a babysitting club for a small group of 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls in the south turned into a wonderful service project to help young, disadvantaged moms. The girls would see many young mothers struggle to provide diapers, formula, and warm blankets for their babies. In response, the girls collected bags of baby items, including diapers, bibs, formula, and toys to present to young moms at the hospital and in the community. Oh baby---what a wonderful way to serve!

#### **KINDNESS COUNTS!**

We all know that seeds produce flowers, but a group of kids in Connecticut discovered that flowers can produce wheelchairs, too! These church kids decided to sell flowers to raise money to buy a wheelchair to donate to a local nursing home. They talked over their plans with a local nursery, who helped provide the flowers at a minimal cost. Kids sold carnations in a rainbow of colors for \$1 each and made enough to purchase a wheelchair!

**References:** Hands-On Service Ideas for Youth Groups, Case and Cornforth, Group Publishing, Inc., 1995.

101 Simple Service Projects Kids Can Do; Lingo, Susan; Standard Publishing, 2000.

