

Michigan 4-H Service Learning: Even more than Community Service

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**Kansas 4-H Community Service
Service-Learning Project Leader Session
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Food For thought....

“If you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito.”

Anita Roddick



Community Service? Service Learning?



Community Service Learning

- “The Voluntary Action of an individual or group of individuals without pay”
- One time project
- Does not typically include an educational component
- No intentional reflection takes place
- Helps the community



Service

- “Service learning is a strategy that integrates community needs, intentional learning objectives, and structured opportunities for reflection.”
- More intentional
- Longer duration—could be an ongoing project
- Includes learning objectives
- Includes reflection
- Two-way learning



Other thoughts about Community Service/Service Learning....



When you hear Community Service what do you think?



Positive

or

Negative



1st the WHY



- **Why do Community Service?**
- **Why do Service Learning?**
 - Any service is meaningful!!
 - “The Community Service we did today will be helpful to who receives it (I learned how to make a tie blanket) but through service learning you would learn much more and the project would be better.”



3 Types of Service

Direct Service*** Indirect Service*** Advocacy



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Direct Service

- **Activities that require participants to establish personal contact with people in need**
 - Participants learn to:
 - be responsible for their own actions
 - be dependable
 - make a difference in another persons life
 - care for another person
 - focus on the needs of others, and put one's own problems into context-learn empathy
 - get along with people different from one's self



Indirect Service

- Activities that commonly take place at a neutral meeting place, such as a club meeting, channeling resources to the area of need, rather than working directly with those in need of service.
 - Participants learn to:
 - work in a team
 - develop team spirit
 - play different roles in a group
 - take pride in an accomplishment
 - organize to get a job done
 - involve others
 - perform project-specific skills
 - value working with others to solve problems.



Advocacy

- Requires participants to blend their voices and talents to help eliminate the causes of a specific problem.
 - Participants learn to:
 - Persevere
 - Articulate a concern and suggest solutions
 - Work with adults
 - Persuade people to act in a new way
 - Understand relationships among issues
 - Appreciate the duties and privileges of citizenship
 - Appreciate the political process



Planning a Project

- 1 Identify a need-Needs Assessment of school, community, etc**
Don't over think!!
- 2 Research - Seek out information about the problem.**
Remember to get a lot of viewpoints, Ask local experts, Internet
- 3 Brainstorm-How are you going to help solve the problem?**
- 4 PLAN-Identify groups or individuals that can help**
- 5 Take Action**
- 6 Reflect, Share what you have learned with others! *celebrate***



Tons of 4-H Ideas....

- Livestock project members can give to food banks-organize a drive for producers to give a portion too! Advertise at the animal science events in the summer.
- The small engine group can mow lawns for seniors.
- Hold a toy drive for a shelter
- Find out what a shelter needs and then complete the project
- The dog project members can walk dogs for an animal shelter
- Craft Members can organize a mitten, hat and scarf drive.
- A woodworking project group can refinish desks for a school
- A foods and nutrition project group can hold a food drive
- Small animal groups can visit a shelter/retirement home with animals-Carnival in the parking lot????
- The garden project members can donate extra vegetables



Why is Community Service Learning so important?

Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.

~ Benjamin Franklin



MSU Extension-4-H Community Service & Service Learning

https://www.canr.msu.edu/community_service_learning/



MSU Extension
4-H Community Service & Service Learning

Philanthropy & Service Education

4-H Cloverbuds And Service

Dare To Serve Challenge

Resources



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Philanthropy & Service Education Ideas

Welcome to Michigan 4-H and Learning to Give Partnership. We are so excited to be more intentional about serving our communities across the state. Many 4-H clubs participate in service during the year and your communities are so grateful. In partnership with Learning to Give, Michigan 4-H is offering a monthly lesson ideas from the Learning to Give website. We have lessons selected for the full 4-H year with quarterly support Zoom meetings to share and ask questions. We invite all clubs to participate. Everything is possible to do virtually!

Philanthropy & Service Education Ideas

CloverBud 5-7 year-olds

Teen 13-18 year-olds

Youth 8-12 year-olds



Sample Service Activities

- Cloverbuds are MI 4-H members between the ages of 5-7
- Easily adaptable for all ages
- Sections include:
 - What's it all about?
 - Before Project
 - During Project
 - After Project
 - Resources
 - Focus on Service
 - Reflections and Celebration
 - Variations of this project



4-H Cloverbuds and Service

Creating Care Packages for Deployed Soldiers, Veterans or Military Families

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Service involves looking outside yourself and helping or doing work for your community or individuals within the community.

- Serving the community, the individuals receive benefits because they are a member of the community.
- Serving others also benefits the 4-H member by building life skills that may include:
 - Responsible Citizenship, Teamwork, Character, Concern for Others, Communication, Goal Setting, Problem Solving and many more.

Before Project

- Teach the youth about soldiers who are deployed and veterans and the challenges they and their families face.
- Talk to your local Veterans Affairs Office or an organization like operation gratitude to see what needs the veterans have during the time of year of the project.
- Identify possible donors or resources.
- Decide who your group is going to make packages for.
- Determine where to take items once collected.

During Project

- Gather goods.
- Package goods with care.
- Include a personal touch. (special project, personal note, photo etc.)
- Take photos and record the event to share with the media.

After Project

- Reflect on your project.
- Have a celebration.

FOCUS ON THE SERVICE

To have a successful service project it is important for the group to work through the entire project before they actually collect items to send to soldiers, veterans or their

EMPOWERING CLOVERBUDS

- Cloverbuds can participate in community service as much as any other 4-H member. Lessons may need to be adapted for developmental appropriateness, but they can achieve the benefits of service regardless of age.

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Michigan 4-H Curricula

- Michigan State University Extension 4-H <https://www.canr.msu.edu/4h/>
- 4-H Community Service Learning <https://www.canr.msu.edu/community-service-learning/>

Other Resources

- Operation Gratitude <https://www.operationgratitude.com/>
- Soldiers Angels <https://soldiersangels.org/>
- US Department of Veterans Affairs <https://www.va.gov/>



Sample Service Activities

What's it all about?

Service involves looking outside yourself and helping or doing work for your community or individuals within the community.

- *Serving the community, the individuals receive benefits because they are a member of the community.*
- *Serving others also benefits the 4-H member by building life skills that may include: Responsible Citizenship, Teamwork, Character, Concern for Others, Communication, Goal Setting, Problem Solving and many more.*



4-H Cloverbuds and Service Chemo Kits for Kids

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

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Before Project

- September Child Cancer support month
- Identify possible donors or resources
- Discuss empathy
- Items to help with side effects, provide comfort, and entertainment
- Determine where to take packages once completed.

During Project

- Gather goods – chap stick, mints, gum, soft socks, water bottles, books, moisturizers, peppermint tea, ginger sticks/chews, pillow case
- Package goods with care.
- Include a personal touch. (special project, personal note, photo etc.)
- Take photos and record the event to share with the media.

After Project

- Reflect on the project
- Have a celebration.

FOCUS ON SERVICE

The most successful service projects are ones lead by the youth, even Cloverbud aged 4-Her's can voice their ideas for projects. If the youth personally know of a friend who is going through cancer treatments then they will be more invested in the project. This project will feel personal to them and empathy will be more easily identified. If your youth do not have a personal connection with a child going through cancer treatment then one of these video links might help them better identify with the side effects and the seriousness of the disease and treatments. Preview the links to decide on which one will be appropriate for your group.



EMPOWERING CLOVERBUDS

- Cloverbuds can participate in community service as much as any other 4-H member. Lessons may need to be adapted for developmental appropriateness, but they can achieve the benefits of service regardless of age.

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Other Resources

- Cancer! Explaining Cancer to kids – What is it? Children's Disease Books by Prodigy Wizard
- The Stars Twinkle Brightly: A Children's Story About Cancer by Mary E Fam
- Our Shadow Garden by Cherie Foster Colburn



Sample Service Activity

Empowering Cloverbuds
Cloverbuds can participate in community service as much as any other 4-H member. Lessons may need to be adapted for developmental appropriateness, but they can achieve the benefits of service regardless of age.



4-H Cloverbuds and Service

Citizen Science – Learning About Nature and Gathering Data

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Before Project

- Talk to youth about the need for citizen science.

During Project

- Pick one of the projects listed below
- Go outside and observe nature and record what you find
- Enter those observations into an online database

After Project

- Celebrate what you found
- Reflect on if you want to do this project again

FOCUS ON THE SERVICE

- What do we know about the world around us? How do scientists know if numbers of a particular plant or animal are increasing or decreasing? It may sound simple, but scientists count plants and animals, and they need help.
- Citizen Science is a way that people across Michigan and the world can collect information and share it with scientists.
- Participants, by finding species and identifying them can help scientists understand how healthy populations of certain animals are, and if they are moving across the state. This information can also help decision makers make better decision on how to protect wildlife.



EMPOWERING CLOVERBUDS

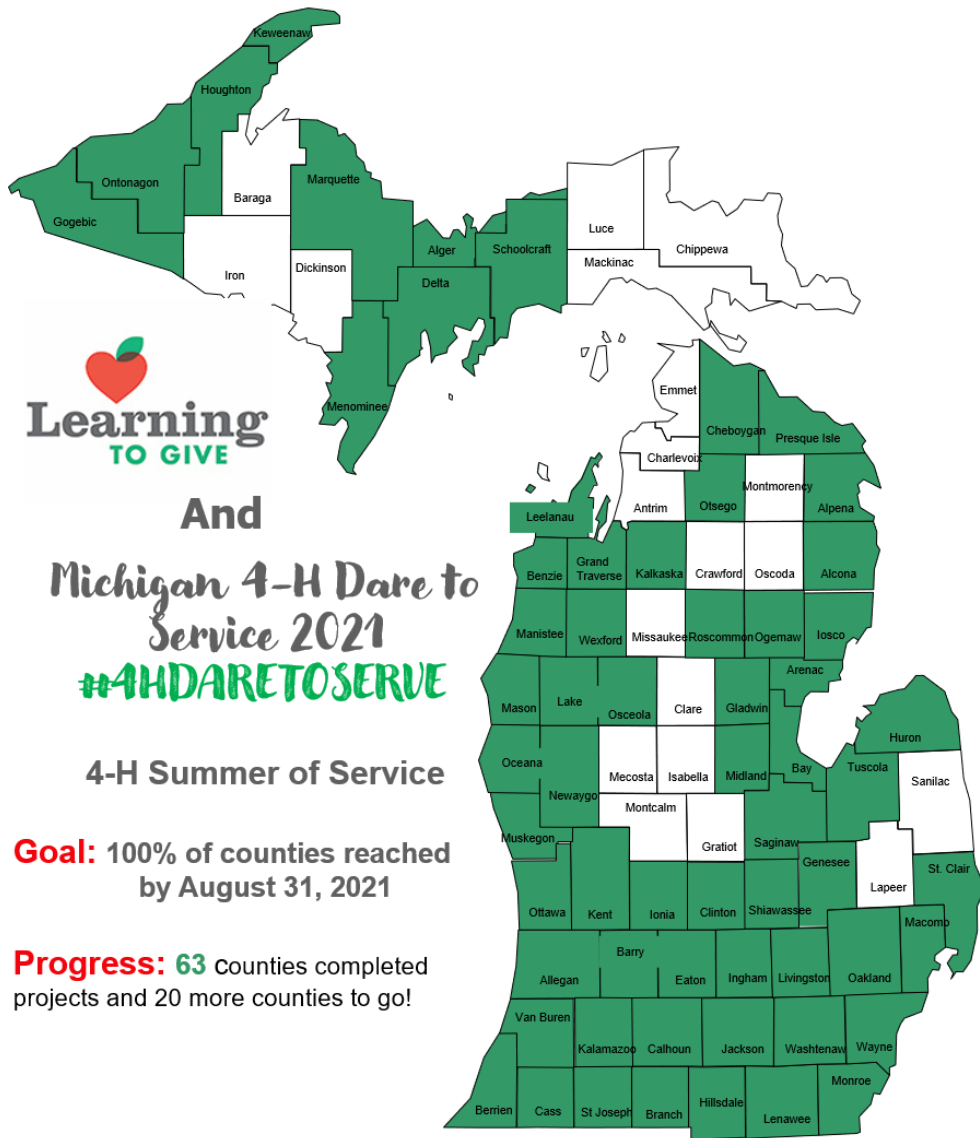
- Cloverbuds can participate in community service as much as any other 4-H member. Lessons may need to be adapted for developmental appropriateness, but they can achieve the benefits of service regardless of age.

CURRICULA & RESOURCES

Other Resources

- <https://cistarter.com/citizensciencehtmi>
- <https://www.citizenscience.gov/>
- <https://www.citizen-science.org/>





And
Michigan 4-H Dare to Service 2021
#4HDARETOSERVE

4-H Summer of Service

Goal: 100% of counties reached by August 31, 2021

Progress: 63 Counties completed projects and 20 more counties to go!



National 4-H Council Project Information



<https://4-h.org/about/true-leaders-in-service/#!overview>

<https://4-h.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/True-Leaders-In-Service-Planning-Guide-2020.pdf>





4-H Youth in Action Awards

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEWoLkXporU> Addy Battel's story
- <https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/#!/2022-finalists>
- The 4-H Youth in Action Program recognizes four confident young leaders in pillar areas: agriculture, civic engagement, healthy living and STEM.
- Each year, Pillar Winners will experience an exciting year of telling their 4-H story and celebrating their leadership. Winners receive:
 - \$5,000 higher education scholarship
 - Promotional video showcasing their 4-H impact story
 - All-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. for National 4-H Council's Legacy Awards
 - Networking opportunities with 4-H celebrities and other prominent alumni
 - Recognition as the official 4-H youth spokesperson for their pillar





Questions

*We ourselves feel that what we are doing is
just a drop in the ocean but the ocean would
be less because of that missing drop.
-----Mother Theresa*

