

Community Service Learning Project Ideas

By 4-H Curriculum Category

Citizenship and Civic Education

- Advocate for youth issues with governing bodies
- Organize a Christmas Center where those who can't afford to buy gifts for their families can go to get clothes, toys, household items, food
- Write a proposal asking that a vacant lot be turned into a playground. Follow up and build the playground
- Adopt a new immigrant family and help them connect to the community
- Organize a cultural festival to celebrate and share diversity (and food)
- Build a memorial for veterans, or for founders of the community
- Investigate needs, publicize, collect, and process items needed for disaster relief
- Trick or Treat for UNICEF
- Establish a once a week visit and activity time for a nursing home
- Collect oral histories from the oldest residents, print, and share them
- Help an elderly neighbor – mow, pull weeds, shovel snow, paint
- Older 4-H'ers conduct special 4-H program for institutionalized handicapped
- Distribute voter registration information

Communication and Arts

- Tutor younger kids to improve reading and writing skills
- Make a list of hotlines for kids who need help. Distribute the list widely to kids as a billfold card
- Present special talents (dance, music) to nursing homes
- Christmas caroling to elderly and shut-ins
- Make holiday cards for people in nursing homes, hospitals, meals on wheels trays
- Design posters for non-profit organizations, 4-H office

Consumer and Family Sciences

- Volunteer to help in preschools, after school child care, homeless shelters, Ronald McDonald houses
- Lead a 4-H project for kids in after school programs
- Recycle discarded clothing into useful items for the needy
- Make quilts for needy
- Deliver demonstrations, presentations on consumer issues
- Organize, promote, and volunteer in food recovery efforts to benefit those in need
- Organize a Neighborhood Crime Watch and engraving of valuables in homes
- Help shut-ins with needed home maintenance, renovations
- Clean up and paint over graffiti
- Develop a brochure of all services and helps available to parents; distribute them
- Volunteer to help with child care for those who can't afford to pay
- Act as *big buddies* to children who need extra support and role models

- Coach children in sports
- Read books to children in a library program
- Make care packages for teenage mothers, including diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, lotion, children's books, and a guide for new parents
- Form a welcome wagon for new teenagers to your community

Environmental Education and Earth Sciences

- Deliver stewardship presentations to elementary classes
- Install 4-H stenciled trash cans in community parks
- Restore stream banks on nearby streams
- Control erosion on public lands such as parks
- Deliver demonstrations on energy conservation to schools, PTA, service clubs
- Organize a community Arbor Day celebration – plant trees in public areas
- Plant wildlife food plots in public and private lands
- Plant wildflowers in public right of ways
- Establish demonstration plot of native plants in a park
- Become an active member of an environmental or wildlife organization
- Conduct a day camp for younger kids in poor neighborhoods
- Organize a *Volksmarch* of historic parts of your area
- Collect, build, and install playground equipment for a low income day care center
- Organize an Adopt a Highway campaign
- Promote a special summer week of city wide cleanup. Involve ALL youth groups
- Demonstrate home and yard composting throughout the community
- Get your school to stop using environmentally unfriendly packaging in the lunchroom
- Go on a mission trip to dig wells for a village
- Weatherize homes for the low income families
- Start, promote, and maintain a neighborhood, school, or church wide recycling program
- Collect Christmas trees and leaves for recycling
- Conduct a feasibility study and lobby for a community wide recycling program if your community doesn't already have one
- Build bird feeders to give to senior citizens or aviary societies
- Create bike trails in the community

Healthy Lifestyle

- Present anti-drug programs to your school
- Organize Kick Butts (anti-smoking) program for junior and senior high students
- Advocate or raise funds for mental and emotional health services
- Organize and staff a youth crisis hotline
- Take food baskets to shut-ins
- Help cook and serve at center for homeless, Ronald McDonald house
- Promote and take part in food recovery programs in restaurants, etc.
- Establish a fitness course in a public park
- Organize active events such as bike hikes, share health tips with participants

- Sponsor a community blood drive. Contact past donors, set donation appointments, send reminder postcard, put up posters, do radio spots, help unload blood mobile, setup, assist as Gophers
- Present safety demonstrations and programs in schools
- Conduct safety surveys of homes, farms, tagging safety hazards
- Organize and conduct a hunter safety course in the community
- Campaign for streetlights or crosswalks at dangerous intersections
- Serve in a downtown soup kitchen
- Help staff a food pantry on a regular basis
- Deliver Meals on Wheels

Personal Development and Leadership

- Volunteer with service agencies that allow you to explore careers of interest
- Advocate for training and jobs for those leaving welfare
- Serve on church, community boards, and committees
- Organize a feeder calf sale or fat animal sale at the fair
- Volunteer to help with a *Mini Society* Youth Entrepreneurship program
- Find a younger kid who needs a friend and introduce him to your hobby
- Provide special holiday activities for nursing homes
- Volunteer individually in agencies that interest you
- Collect used children's books, make them available to those in need
- Set up a book exchange so kids can trade in ones they have read for ones they have not
- Organize and conduct community celebrations
- Lead Bingo or other games for nursing home residents
- Write Letters to the Editor reacting to local concerns of youth
- Share your testimony before city, county boards and councils to address problems facing local youth
- Gather school supplies for low income children who are starting school
- Lead classes for migrant farm children during the summer
- Write or read letters for senior citizens who can no longer write or read
- Help senior citizens with shopping needs (Christmas, groceries, errands)
- Lead recreation and tutoring in a juvenile center
- Collect books for the prison library
- Offer a shuttle service to help people get to appointments, church, etc.
- Create a volunteer guide to non-profit organizations in your community, listing their purpose, needs, and opportunities

Plants and Animals

- Farm Day for nursing home residents, school kids
- Petting Zoo at the fair, community events
- Take pets to nursing homes once a month
- Raise guide dog or helper dog puppies
- Volunteer at the animal shelter

- Get involved with humane society in controlling pet populations, reducing strays, arranging for free or inexpensive spaying and neutering in low income areas
- Establish flower and vegetable gardens at nursing homes, help residents care for them
- Establish a kid community garden in a vacant lot, with 4-H'ers organizing, serving as resources
- Restore a neglected cemetery
- Participate in therapeutic horseback riding for adults and kids with disabilities
- Donate extra garden produce to the food pantry, soup kitchens

Science and Technology

- Present science demonstrations in elementary schools
- Tutor younger kids who have trouble in science
- Conduct a chick embryology program at a school
- Repair and paint a house for a needy family
- Make wooden holiday gifts for needy children
- Tune up, sharpen, and adjust lawn care machinery for those who need it
- Test samples of local drinking water for lead
- Reclaim broken bicycles and lawn mowers and donate them to low income families
- Make special equipment (such as wheelchair ramps) for people with disabilities