YOUR GUIDE TO SUCCESS IN THE
4-H Citizenship Project

Advice from a 4-H’er

From: Preston, Age 16 (2015)

My involvement in Citizenship has allowed me to witness firsthand the effect you can have on your region. When I first entered 4-H I was unaware of the vast community service opportunities available. Since then, however, I have enjoyed volunteering in several of my club’s community service projects. An example of what a typical Citizenship project looks like for me includes anything from clothing drives to supplying items for local pet shelters.

Citizenship has changed my view of 4-H to a service-oriented outlook. It also provides me with invaluable leadership skills and an appreciation for the hard work thousands of others do every day. Whether it is cleaning the county fairgrounds or simply taking an interest in how your local government is run, you are practicing citizenship.

My advice for any 4-H’er wanting to enter Citizenship is this: have fun and be yourself! The more you enjoy your project, the greater your service affects others. The impact any one person can have on their community is immeasurable.

Project levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age 7-10</th>
<th>Age 11-13</th>
<th>Age 14+</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>◆ Get to know the other people in your club and what they like to do for fun.</td>
<td>◆ Interview your principal and find out what you and your 4-H Club can do to improve the school grounds.</td>
<td>◆ Investigate the departments in your county government and find out what they do.</td>
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<td>◆ Construct a family tree of relatives identifying places lived and vocations.</td>
<td>◆ Observe a community board meeting.</td>
<td>◆ Interview someone from your local Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Agency to learn about the goals for your community.</td>
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<td>◆ Interview a neighbor and identify the similarities and differences between you.</td>
<td>◆ Create and carry-out a plan to help someone in your community.</td>
<td>◆ Identify a cause important to you and determine how to make a difference.</td>
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<td>◆ Tour city or state’s hall, Courthouse or capitol.</td>
<td>◆ Discover the history of your school or community.</td>
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## Exploring Opportunities

- Give a presentation about the history of your school or town.
- Make an appointment with your state legislator and share your thoughts on an issue.
- Read newspapers or news magazines on a regular basis.
- Research a community issue and share your ideas with appropriate board or governing body.
- Organize friends to clean-up a neighborhood park.
- Ask your local nursing home residents how they would like to celebrate the next holiday and involve others to carry-out the plan.
- Get approval and then create and conduct a survey for students on a school issue; then share the results with the administration.

## Exhibit Ideas

- Exhibit a notebook or display at the fair about something you have learned in the citizenship project.
- Do a talk or demonstration at your club meeting, club day or another public speaking event.
- Create an instructional video to teach others about a skill.

### Resources:

Visit [http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/project-club-resources/projects.html](http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/project-club-resources/projects.html) to also find the following links.

### Kansas 4-H Citizenship Website:
- [http://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/personal-development/citizenship.html](http://www.kansas4-h.org/projects/personal-development/citizenship.html)

### Other helpful Citizenship websites around the country:
- [https://www.icivics.org/](https://www.icivics.org/)
- [http://4h.missouri.edu/programs/character/characterconnections/citizenship.pdf](http://4h.missouri.edu/programs/character/characterconnections/citizenship.pdf)
- [http://www.civicyouth.org/](http://www.civicyouth.org/)