



# 4-H Citizenship Project

Kansas 4-H focuses on the mastery of 5 life skills:

1. A positive self-concept
2. An inquiring mind
3. A concern for the community
4. Healthy interpersonal relationships
5. Sound decision making

The subject matter content in 4-H focuses primarily on three mission areas:

1. science
2. healthy living
3. citizenship and leadership

## 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.



Preston (far left) led his club's Toys for Tots drive

## Project levels

Age 7-10	Age 11-13	Age 14+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Get to know the other people in your club and what they like to do for fun.</li> <li>◆ Construct a family tree of relatives identifying places lived and vocations.</li> <li>◆ Interview a neighbor and identify the similarities and differences between you.</li> <li>◆ Tour city or state's hall, Courthouse or capitol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Interview your principal and find out what you and your 4-H Club can do to improve the school grounds.</li> <li>◆ Observe a community board meeting.</li> <li>◆ Create and carry-out a plan to help someone in your community.</li> <li>◆ Discover the history of your school or community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Investigate the departments in your county government and find out what they do .</li> <li>◆ Interview someone from your local Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Agency to learn about the goals for your community.</li> <li>◆ Identify a cause important to you and determine how to make a difference .</li> </ul>

The activities above are ideas to inspire further project development. This is not a complete list.



Events	Curriculum	4-H Record Book
<p>State &amp; County Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Club Day</li> <li>◆ County Fair</li> <li>◆ State Fair</li> <li>◆ National 4-H Week</li> <li>◆ Citizen Washington Focus</li> <li>◆ Citizenship in Action</li> <li>◆ National 4-H Conference or National 4-H Congress</li> </ul> <p>Check with your club to see what opportunities are offered at the club level as well.</p>	<p>Available to purchase at the Extension Office (check to make sure it's in stock)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Citizenship Project Book</li> <li>◆ Citizenship Leader's Guide</li> </ul> <p>Citizenship Curriculum can also be purchased at the K-State online bookstore or the 4-H Mall.</p>	<p>4-H Record Books give members an opportunity to record events and reflect on their experiences. For each project, members document their personal experiences, learning and development.</p> <p>4-H Record Books also teach members record management skills and encourage them to set goals and develop a plan to meet those goals</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="http://www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/record-books.html">www.johnson.k-state.edu/4-h/forms-resources/record-books.html</a></p>

## Resources:

### Visit

<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>

### Other helpful Citizenship websites around the country:

- ◆ <https://www.icivics.org/>
- ◆ <http://4h.missouri.edu/programs/character/characterconnections/citizenship.pdf>
- ◆ <http://new.civiced.org/>
- ◆ <http://www.civicyouth.org/>
- ◆ [http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/4H/about\\_4H/programs/citizenship/service\\_learning/](http://www.lsuagcenter.com/en/4H/about_4H/programs/citizenship/service_learning/)
- ◆ <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/citizen/citizen.pdf>



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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.

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