



Community Service

Indiana 4-H Civic Engagement Activity

Service Learning Going Beyond Community Service

Grades: 3-12

Overview

A short lesson on the difference between community service and service learning will be presented. Volunteers will work in small groups to plan service learning opportunities. The “366 Community Service Ideas” document compiled by University of Nebraska Extension will be used as a list of options to consider when planning ways to go beyond the act of community service.

Objectives

- Challenge 4-H volunteers and youth to think beyond traditional community service activities.
- Encourage volunteers to deliberately plan methods for turning community service into service learning opportunities.

Materials

- 1 Copy of “366 Community Service Ideas” by University of Nebraska Extension per participant.
- Chart paper
- Markers
- Additional resources to provide:
 - Service-learning Fact Sheet
 - From Community Service to Service-learning
 - 10 Steps to a Successful Service Learning Project

Instructions

Provide participants with a brief explanation of the difference between Community Service and Service Learning activities. Points to consider making are:

- Community service provides participants with the opportunity to provide a service to a group or the community.
- Service learning gives the participants the opportunity to actively participate in the planning and implementation of the service activity, and then share what they learned following an act of service for a group or the community.

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Examples of Service Learning:

- “Take a Bite Out of Hunger”
 - When participating in “Take a Bite Out of Hunger,” encourage members to go beyond bringing a can of food to a club meeting.
 - Have them collect food items at a large community event and turn it into a STEM activity where teams can design an object out of the cans before delivering it to a food pantry.
 - Have members count and weigh the cans collected.
 - Follow-up with a club discussion. Sample questions: What did we learn about collecting food for those in need? What did we learn about the food pantry where we dropped the food off? How can we further help this organization?
- Consider the 4-H Pledge – “I pledge my hands to larger service for my club, my community, my country, and my world.”
 - Think beyond community service within your club and county. Is there an activity that you could do for the country or the world?

