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## 4-H: Share With Your Community

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# Share 4-H With Your Community

**AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE**

South Dakota State College

U. S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating



# Share 4-H With Your Community

ELIZABETH DAWSON KISER\*

## Share Your Head "H"

4-H club work teaches you skills and gives you a working knowledge of many things. This you can share with others.

### A Recreation Leader

Have some of your members learned to lead games or singing at 4-H club meetings? Church groups, PTA's, community clubs, and other groups are always looking for someone especially talented along these lines. A club group might be doing a worthwhile service in their community by offering to lead singing or recreation for another meeting.

The games in your Recreation Activity Circular can be used with all age groups.

Why not make some homemade game equipment and contribute it to your local school or community center?

### Make and Use a Seed Treater

Here is an undertaking that should prove very popular for boys, especially boys in crops

clubs. Designs for various types of homemade seed treaters can be secured from your county agent. Making a treater and using it to treat seed in your community during winter and early spring months would be a big service to farmers. A small rate could be charged, if necessary, which would also solve the problem of raising money for your club.

### Volunteer To Help in Canning

Many good 4-H canning records are made stronger by 4-H girls who volunteer to assist someone during the canning season. If 4-H has taught you the correct use of a pressure cooker, why not use that knowledge in helping someone who doesn't know? Going to their home and working with them, or bringing the fruits and

## Aims of Community Service

Being banded together in a group with the inspiring emblem of *Head, Hands, Heart and Health* should stimulate all of us to share and "do" for others.

It is our hope that this circular will suggest a way that your 4-H club can be of service to the community in which you live.

Community service gives your club an excellent opportunity to let others know about 4-H club work.

### Community Service

In this circular we have suggested services that have been carried on by clubs in this state as well as others.

You may choose one of these or you may choose several. In order to render service in your community you must look around you and decide what would be best for your club to do.

You may carry this activity on as an individual as well as a club.



vegetables to your home and canning them are with good possibilities.

Could your club volunteer to do canning for the school lunch program in your community?

### Provide Demonstrations or Talks

4-H club members may make a valuable contribution by providing demonstrations or talks for meetings other than your own.

Your county and home agent will suggest groups that would welcome demonstrations on the care of milk, freezing, canning, baking bread, building a pig brooder or any other demonstrations your club group has worked out.

### Educational Window Displays

This activity might take place during a special event in your town. How about a window display on a nutritious breakfast, or how to make a rope halter?

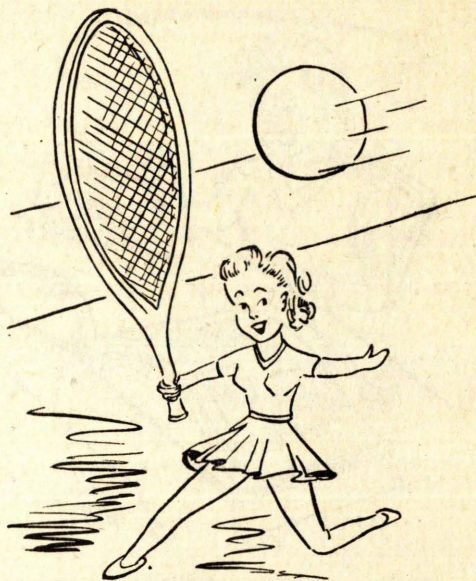
### Fire Hazard Survey

All of us know how tragic farm and home fires can be. One club group organized and carried on a fire hazard survey. Their first step was to list the fires in their community and the cause. Next they prepared a farm and home check sheet and checked the farms in the community. Pointing out the fire hazards resulted in 20 percent removal in a short time.

This "pointing out" could be incorporated in

a safety demonstration or an illustrated talk. Your local newspaper would be glad to cooperate with you in publishing your results.

This would be a practical, specific community service project for your group that would be very much worthwhile even if it prevented only one fire in the next few years.



## Share Your Heart "H"

Doing something unexpected for someone out of the kindness of your heart will give you a greater reward in satisfaction than you can ever anticipate.

### Share Your Scrapbooks

Often we think of scrapbooks as something for ourselves. How about making a scrapbook and presenting it to some Children's Home as a gift from the club? This community service has been carried on by several South Dakota 4-H clubs.

Individual members of the club might be responsible for various sections of the book. Each section might be labeled with the member's name who prepared it. A lot of satisfaction would come from this worthy endeavor for unfortunate children.

Some ideas for what to put in your scrapbook come from a Beadle county club: Flower pic-

*\*Assistant in Club Work*

tures, bird pictures, pictures of dolls of other nations or cartoons.

### Remember Shut-Ins

Every community has people who are confined to their homes. You can do much to brighten their outlook by calling on these shut-ins regularly and visiting with them. Taking a bouquet of flowers, some refreshments or other little remembrance would be very thoughtful on your part.

Your club might send greeting cards to shut-ins on their birthdays, at Christmas, Valentine's day or other special occasions. Try to find special cards for special days—or make some unusual





ones to arrive when least expected—on Ground Hog's Day, Independence Day or April Fool's Day.

For a very young shut-in, cut out small pictures, jokes, or poems and roll them up. Fit each one inside a capsule (you can get them from a druggist). Send a whole box full. It will be lots of fun and pass away long hours for the little shut-in.

### Helping During Emergencies

Emergencies do arise from time to time. A farmer in your community may be ill or injured, or his wife may be unable to take care of her housework for the same reasons. A thoughtful gesture on the part of your 4-H club would be to volunteer your services in helping with the farm chores, the field work, washing or ironing the clothes, cleaning the house, or even baking a few days' supply of foodstuff. This would be a real community service. If someone is ill for a long time, your whole club might take turns—each being chore-boy or chore-girl for a week.

### Book or Magazine Exchanges

Especially if you live in a community where there is no library, a contribution of conducting a book and magazine exchange would be worthy of your club's efforts. Even though you start with a small project—this one will grow and can be carried from year to year.

### Christmas Caroling

Your club could bring much joy to other shut-ins at Christmas. Combine this with visiting shut-ins and a party for yourselves afterwards.

### Christmas Party

Everyone likes to exchange gifts at an annual Christmas party. You could make this into a worthy community service by exchanging gifts suitable for very young children. Open up the gifts, have a good time playing with the toys and an equally good time rewrapping the gifts to send to an orphanage for someone else's Christmas.

### Serve as Ushers

You 4-H club members might contribute service by ushering at various community events.

Club members in Sanborn county served as ushers at a corn and grain show.

### Invite the Public

Club members in Grant county invite boys and girls in their community to a 4-H picnic and plan entertainment for them. You might invite the public to recreational and other programs.





## Build a Community Center

Can your club do something to help build a new community center?

In many of our communities there is not a place large enough or well enough equipped to hold meetings.

If your community has a community hall, perhaps it would be a big service for your club to help raise money for repairs or equipment.

Your club could hold a party, an entertainment, a shower or a box social to raise money for paint, curtains, a stove, dishes, chairs, pictures, a sink, tables or recreation equipment for your community center.

## Flowers for Your Church

It might be a real service in your community for 4-H members to help arrange flowers for your church, or to contribute flowers for church services throughout the summer.



## Share Your Hand "H"

"Many hands make light work." Actual work might be a contribution in your community. By doing it together it could be fun.

### Child Care Service

Many farm women are deprived of the opportunity of attending various social functions in a community because it is not convenient to take small children along and they have no one to stay at home with them.

You girls in 4-H clubs could volunteer your services as baby-sitters. This would be greatly appreciated.

Many farm women are also needed for certain short-time periods to help with the field work during rush seasons. The same problem comes up. Child care is another good community service activity.

Do some young parents stay home from church because they have children too young to be taken to church? Your club might talk with your minister and set up a nursery taking turns caring for the small youngsters in your community during church services. Some churches we know have a place in the basement for such a nursery. If it has already been set up perhaps it would be a service for your club group to rede-

corate the nursery or provide play equipment for the children.

### Farm and Ranch Signs

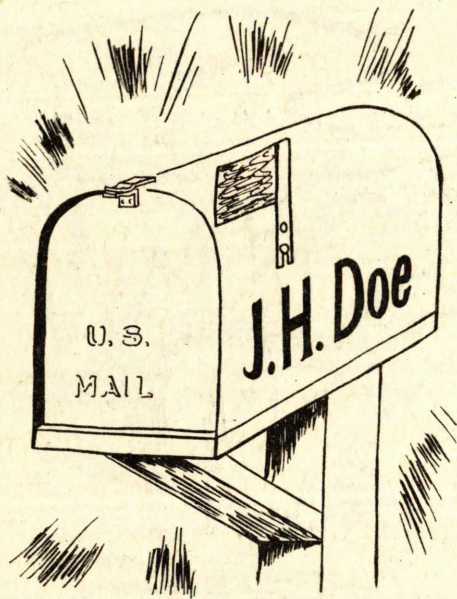
How often have you driven in a strange community and wondered who lived on each place that you went by? How often have you noticed a nice herd of cattle, a flock of sheep or a drove of hogs and wondered who was the breeder of that good livestock?

Farm and ranch signs giving the owner's name, the name of his farm or ranch and the kind of livestock he breeds is good advertising for the farmer and a good project for your 4-H club. Why not contact a few farmers in your community and talk this over with them? In many cases they would gladly provide the necessary materials if your club would volunteer to make and erect the sign.

### Mail Box Improvement

What could be more noticeable to the traveling public than to have all mail boxes neatly painted with the name of the owner clearly stenciled on the box?





Many mail boxes are in very poor condition. You can secure from your rural mail carrier or local postmaster the necessary information regarding regulations about this project. What is the correct height for a mailbox? Which side of the road should they be on? If the owner consents to let you improve his box, this will definitely be a community endeavor.

### Church, School, Cemetery Clean-ups

Many of our rural school and church yards become unsightly during the summer months because no one takes the time to keep the lawns mowed and the weeds cut. A visit to the local school and church board asking their permission for you to keep these grounds neat may be all that is needed.

Many rural school and church yards are barren looking. Trees and shrubbery are badly needed. Your 4-H club could be of real service if you would plant and care for some trees and shrubs until they are large enough to stand less attention. This particular phase of community service activity can also be included in a conservation activity program.

In nearly every cemetery where there is not a full-time sexton, there are a few lots that receive little attention. These are usually lots of former citizens in the community whose relatives have all moved away and no one assumes the responsibility of keeping these lots cleaned up. A few

hours time on your part could do much to keep all these lots attractive looking and would give much satisfaction to you who participate in this type of community service.

### Roadside Improvement

Everyone enjoys a neat landscape. Here is a job that would require more work and close cooperation with the landowner.

What would your reaction be if you were driving down a road and came to a sign which read something like this, "Both sides of this road are kept improved by the Happy Hustlers 4-H Club—John Doe, leader"? Your club might choose this worthy task which wins the respect of all people.

### A Hobo Day

Every group of young people is continually trying to find new ways to earn money. A group in another state has a day each spring and fall which they call, "Hobo day." The young people meet right after school and divide up into small groups. Then they rake, mow, spade, plant gardens, wash dishes, wash windows, mind children and do any little odd job they can find. The money they get paid for the job is placed in their treasury. They close the hoboing with a big picnic supper. They have rendered a service, put some money in their treasury, and had loads of fun, too.





## County Crop Improvement Work

Boys 4-H club in Sanborn county planted the sorghum and corn test plots for the Sanborn County Crop Improvement association. Another 4-H club weeded the small grain test plots for the annual county crops tour.

Your club might work with your own county association to render this valuable community service.

## Waiting on Tables

Boys as well as girls can help wait on tables at community suppers.

This community service combines some of the things you may have learned in 4-H along with lots of good, hard, but appreciated, work.

## Scrap Drives

Even though the war is over there is still a need for salvaging fat, paper and iron.

## Share Your Health "H"

4-H club work has always stood for clean, healthful living. You may wish to share your standards, skill and time in sharing HEALTH with your community.

### Rodent Control

Rats, mice, weevils and other pests can waste your community feed supply. It costs about \$2 a year to room and board a rat. Three rats eat as much as two laying hens. Infected rats may give hogs trichinosis—a serious disease and a hazard to human health.

Community action is needed in many areas on rodent control. Your 4-H club could be of great assistance in this field by helping to organize and carry out a rodent control program. The proper spreading of poisoned bait for rats, gophers and other rodents would be a simple task for 4-H members. Contact your county agent for recommended baits and systems of spreading.

Give a demonstration at several community meetings to stimulate interest and follow up by making your club members available for doing the work if farmers and ranchers would like to have you.

### Sponsor a Clinic

Sponsoring an immunization or vaccination clinic might be a very acceptable thing in your community. Our State Board of Health tells us that more immunizations is one thing South Dakotans should work toward.

### Free Mobile X-Ray Unit

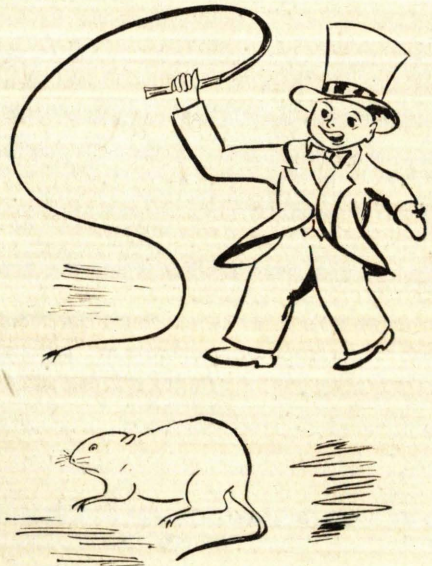
Your 4-H club might contribute in the fight against tuberculosis by leading the way and en-

couraging the use of the free mobile X-Ray unit when it is in your county.

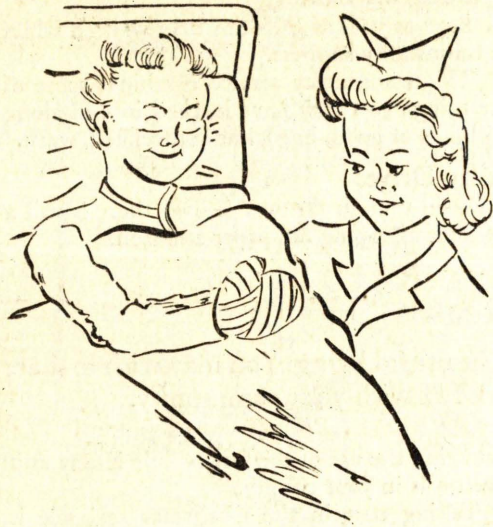
Taking part in the Christmas seal sale is another way for you to fight tuberculosis and contribute service.

### Test Wells in Community

Your club could send samples of water from the wells in your community to be tested. A club in another state reported that this proved to be a fine service as they found the drinking water at three homes to be unsafe for drinking unless it was boiled. Some of our own clubs have checked water supplies at their local school.







Kit? Equipping a first aid kit and placing it in any one of these places might be a very community service. You never know when an accident will happen.

### Removing Safety Hazards

Much might be contributed by a 4-H club in removing hazards to safety in your community. Is there a corner with trees or brush obstructing the view? Your club might be active in putting up road signs that have been knocked down, or reporting bridges that need repair.

Other safety practices may be brought to the community through demonstrations by club members.

With the accident rate going up, your club may contribute a real service through removing safety hazards or making the community safety-conscious.

### Care of Sick

4-H members in your club might be of service to individuals or families by taking turns in caring for someone who is ill. Hired help is often hard to secure. You need not be a registered nurse to perform this type of service.

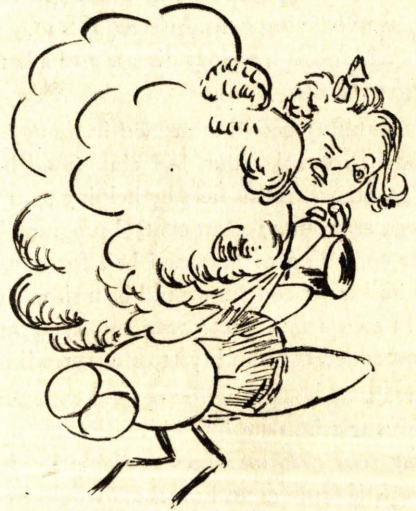
The Red Cross or your local hospital may have a great need for some workers. 4-H members might do such work as a club community service.

### Fly Eradication Campaign

You might contribute a real service to your community by eliminating fly and mosquito breeding places.

### First Aid Kits

Does your school, your church and your community hall have a well-equipped First Aid



*Perhaps the suggestions in this circular will stimulate the thinking of your group and many more ideas for service to your community through 4-H club work will be brought out.*

*No act of service however small, will go unrewarded because satisfaction which you club members will have as a result of sharing your four "H's" will enrich your own club experiences.*

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