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Community Service for 4-H Club Members

A.A. Smick

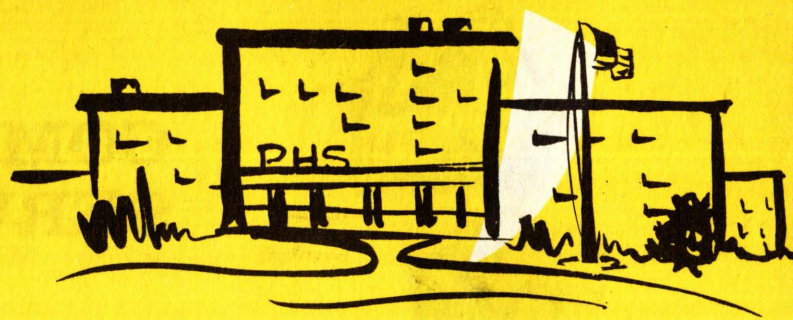
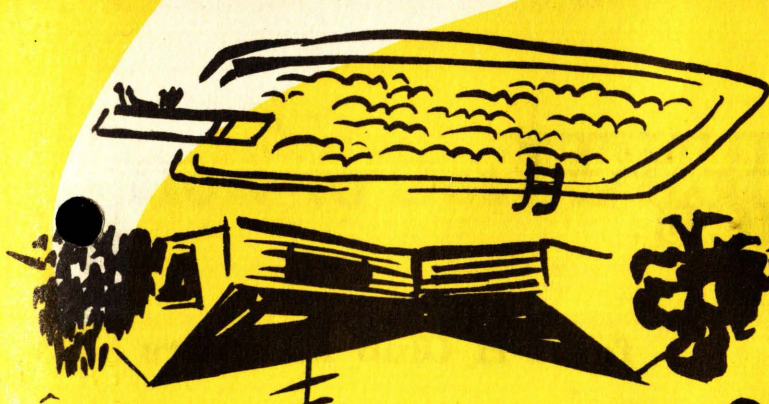
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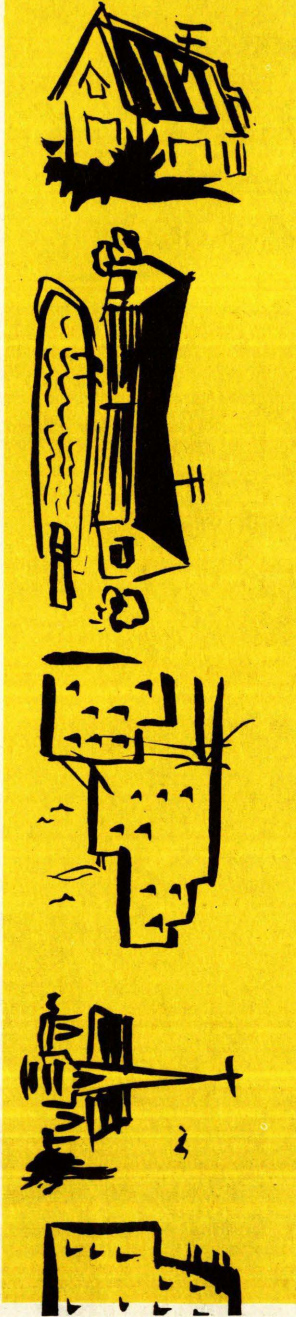


COMMUNITY SERVICE

FOR 4-H CLUB MEMBERS



Extension Circular 618
Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State College, Brookings
U.S. Department of Agriculture



COMMUNITY SERVICE

for 4-H Club Members

By A. A. Smick, Extension Community Organization Specialist, Washington State University; and reviewed by the 4-H staffs of Oregon State University and the University of Idaho.

COMMUNITY SERVICE . . . that's what happens when your club, your neighborhood, community groups and local government work together to build your community into the kind of place you want it to be.

The parks and playgrounds, churches, schools and hospitals that serve a community don't just happen. Leaders interested in community service were necessary to help create these facilities. In a democracy, such voluntary leadership helps make and keep us strong.

When you take a small step in community service you are on the road to becoming a community leader.

Community Service Requirements

As a 4-H'er, there are three different ways you can do community service. Choose one of these:

- A project for 4-H members 14 years old and older.
- An activity for each club member.
- A group project for your club.

If you want to complete Community Service as a project, you must:

- Find out what your community needs.
- Plan for group or individual action to provide for these community needs.
- Carry out your part of the project or activity.
- Report on these activities through every available means—radio, television, demonstrations, meetings, press, photographs, etc.
- Keep a 4-H record book.
- Keep special Community Service record sheets.

For additional years in Community Service project:

- Take on new community service activities.
- Increase the number of service jobs you are doing.
- Increase the number of people working together to carry on community service projects.
- Take a more active part in your community's activities.

Each year will see your club growing as your community becomes more like the place you want it to be.

How to Get Started

To do an effective job in community service, you need to start with facts. Know your community first. Then, on the basis of these facts, plan your activities or projects. After you've made your plan, you're ready to start your action program. Here are the starting steps:

Find Out About Your Community

- Look at your community as it is. Answer the questions under "How Does Your Community Look to You?" on page 4.
- Gather all the facts you can about your community.
- Decide what the major needs are in your community

Plan Your Activities or Projects

- Decide, together in your group, what you would like to do for your community.
- Find people or agencies that can work with you to get action started.
- Plan with fellow members on how you can use these resources to get what you and others want for your community.

Begin Action

- Carry out activities that will make your community what you want it to be.
- Start with a small project first.
- Take specific responsibilities.
- Report regularly to your club and community.



How Does Your Community Look to You?

Before you can decide what your community needs, you need facts. This list of questions will help you think about your community. But, the questions are only a beginning. You should raise other questions and problems of interest to your community. Do you have—

Youth

- Employment agency for youth?
- Youth guidance clinic?
- Center where youth can work and play together?
- Youth encouraged to assume responsibility with adults on community problems?
- Community-wide youth council?
- Well-planned, year-round recreation programs for youth?
- Specific programs for youth groups of all ages?
- Provisions made for handicapped youths?
- All interests of youth provided for in your community?

Health

- Ample hospital facilities?
- A school nurse?
- Adequate garbage disposal system?
- Enough doctors? (1 for every 800 people?)
- Checks to make sure of a pure water and food supply?
- Ambulance service available?
- School and community clinics on TB, sight, hearing, teeth, etc.?
- Preventive health education programs?

Safety

- A safety council?
- Enough stop lights, traffic control signals, etc.?
- Driving classes, safety contests?
- Schools, police, fire departments, etc., have emergency first aid equipment?

Conservation and Beautification

- Anything being done in your area about:
 - Reforestation?
 - Erosion control?
 - Soil conservation?
- Community's parks and playgrounds:
 - Well landscaped?
 - Beautified with flowers?
 - Equipped with neat benches?
 - Equipped with clean public restrooms?
- Homes neatly painted, well landscaped, etc.?
- Does your community have:
 - Attractive surroundings?
 - Junk piles?
 - Unightly garbage dumps?
 - Poorly lighted streets?
 - Streets and sidewalks full of holes?
 - Poorly marked streets?
 - Attractive school grounds?

Recreation

- A public park?
 - Kept clean?
 - Well equipped?
 - Supervised?
- Toilet facilities?
- Sufficient play equipment?
- Picnic grounds?
- A swimming pool or beach?
- Life guards, other safety precautions?
- Public athletic fields?
 - Football?
 - Baseball?
 - Softball?
 - Tennis?
- Track?
- Horseshoes?
- Badminton?
- Community center for:
 - Basketball?
 - Dancing?
 - Craft and handicraft classes and exhibits?
- Does this community center have:
 - Good ventilation, light, etc.?
 - Good seats, well heated, etc.?
 - Motion picture equipment?
 - Equipment for fairs, etc.?
- Children's summer and day camps?
- A roller skating rink?
- Square and folk dances for all ages?
- All available facilities for recreation being used? (Schools, churches, grange halls, etc.)
- Facilities and programs for family recreation?

Government and Citizenship

- Is there a community planning agency?
- Zoning ordinances?
- Public affairs forums?
- "Get out the vote" campaigns?
- Affairs of community government publicized?
- Community support the public officials?
- Leader training sessions on government, citizenship?
- Community give recognition to good officials?

Welfare

- Golden Age clubs for aged?
- Jobs for aged?
- Advisory committee of citizens to help the judge with delinquents?
- Rehabilitation and employment of handicapped?
- Day nurseries for children of working mothers?
- Family counseling, adjustment services?
- Adequate detention home facilities for delinquents?
- Special programs for the blind, deaf, etc.?
- Child welfare workers to promote preventive programs?

Schools

- Develop questions with school officials.

Church

- Develop questions with church officials.

Sample Club Calendar for Community Service

This calendar can be used as a guide to make your own plan. But, you should adjust its timing and ideas so that it fits the needs of your activity or project. It will help you outline your own plan.

October

Think and talk about your community. How do you like it? Answer the questions in "How Does Your Community Look to You?" Or, build your own questions.

November

Gather all the facts you can about your community. Each member choose a certain part of community life to get facts on.

December

On the basis of facts, decide major needs of your community. What needs attention first?

January

Select projects you want to work on. Discuss resources you can use to help meet needs.

February

Discuss specific plans for projects to meet your community needs.

March

Start actual work on project or activities.

April

Project activity. Group meetings. Individuals work with combined club and community groups.

May

Project activity. Group meetings. Individuals work with combined club and community groups.

June

Project activity. Group meetings. Individuals work with combined club and community groups.

July

Project activity. Tour of results. News stories, radio, TV, meetings to tell results.

August

Report to community with tours, TV, news, pictures. Plan new projects.

September

Report, turn in record book and report forms. Organize next year's project.



Find Out About Your Community

At one of your first club meetings:

- Decide if you know all you need to know about community needs.
- Make a decision on how you will gather facts about the community.
- Find out the feelings of parents and interested groups.
- Decide what questions to ask about your community. You might use the questions under "How Does Your Community Look to You?" on page 4, or make up your own questions.
- Figure out just how you will get facts about your community. Decide which members will work on getting the answers to certain questions and what groups or officials they will ask for these answers.

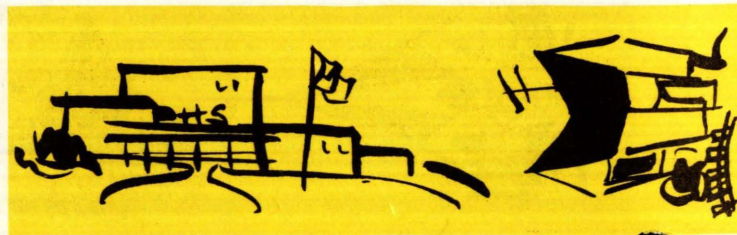
At a later club meeting:

- Summarize the answers to questions about your community.
- Make a map showing needs in each area of the community.
- Use a publicity committee to tell about what you found. Report your findings back to the groups that helped you get the facts.
- Meet with the groups involved to find out where to start and what help each group can give.
- Decide which projects are most needed and which your club can do a good job on.

Select the Project

In this meeting:

- Discuss the problems you have found.
- Decide what your group and other groups can do about these problems.
- Find out how many members are interested in each project.
- Decide which projects your group will do this year. Use group methods to reach agreement.



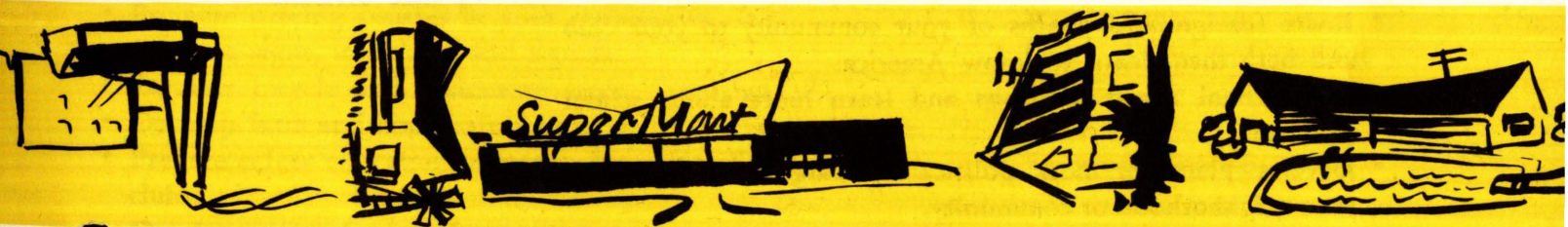
Your Club's Community Service Project

Make a Plan of Action

- Find out all the facts about the problem you chose.
- Discuss these facts and how your group can help.
- Decide what the club will do.
- Figure out what committees are needed.
- Plan what each member is going to do.
- Think about how you can get other groups interested in your project so that they will help out.
- Discuss your plans with service groups, parents, other leaders, etc., to keep them informed. Work with people from groups concerned with your project.

Carry Out the Plan

- Do your jobs.
- Report back to your club and leader at least once a month.
- Use newspaper, radio, TV, demonstrations at sponsor's meetings, before and after pictures, etc., to report on your project.
- Give credit to those who help with the project.



Suggested Ideas for Community Service

Here are some suggested ideas for community services. You and your group, along with others in your community, will think of many more. Add them to this list.

Youth

- Help find and organize youth clubs to do specific community service projects.
- Help find the need for and develop multi-purpose youth centers.
- Help organize youth councils, to help with local youth problems and cooperate with adult groups in solutions.
- Develop youth forums to discuss current problems and develop action programs.
- Interest the community in dances, movies, and parties for teenagers.
- Make survey of your own problems and needs.

Recreation

- Help develop summer playground program.
- Help promote community parties involving dancing, handicraft, games, music, etc.
- Help secure, plan, operate and develop community camp.
- Start and help with hobby show, flower show, etc.
- Help develop special recreation for aging people.
- Develop interest in swimming pool, skating rink, horseshoe court, tennis court, baseball diamonds, etc.
- Help promote training of leaders to supervise and lead recreation programs.
- Community-wide observance of holidays.
- Community facilities such as community union buildings.

Government and Citizenship

- Study city, county, state and national departments of government.
- Visit city council and county commissioners' meetings.
- Visit city and county departments and invite heads of departments to talk to your community service club.
- Help get out the vote at elections.
- Invite candidates for office to speak to your clubs.
- Invite foreign-born youths of your community to your club and help them learn to know America.
- Visit school board meetings and learn more about school problems.
- Develop plans for mock political campaign and election in your neighborhood or community.

Resources You Can Use

- Chairmen of boys' and girls' committees in service clubs.
- Leaders of youth groups (4-H, Campfire Girls, Scouts, etc.)
- County Extension Agents.
- Coaches and teachers.
- Church leaders.
- YMCA and YWCA.
- Juvenile officers and court judges.
- State parks and recreation commission.
- Local forest supervisor and rangers (state and national).
- Service clubs.
- High school coaches.
- County and city recreation supervisors.
- Boys' and girls' club leaders (4-H, Scouts, etc.).
- City and county officials.
- City and county department heads.
- Social science teachers.
- Chairmen of citizenship committees in service clubs.
- Police officers.

Health

- Help publicize TB mobile X-ray unit.
- Help determine the need for programs for the handicapped. (Easter seals, Polio fund, etc.)
- Encourage and tell about good nutrition and balanced diets.
- Clean up your city dumps and exterminate rats.
- Promote testing of water supply, etc.
- Help hold sight and hearing clinics.
- Cooperate in and help establish school dental programs.
- Promote interest in polio control.

Conservation and Beautification

- Plant flowers, shrubs and trees in yards and parks.
- Study conservation and interest people in conservation of soil, water, wildlife, timber, etc.
- Promote roadside improvements and beautification.
- Tell about, organize and cooperate with anti-litter campaigns and place trash containers at strategic locations.
- Help build and maintain community parks.
- Help promote re-forestation programs.
- Build and place community and individual directional signs.

Welfare

- Become acquainted with the under-privileged of all ages in your community.
- Become big brothers and sisters to youngsters not as fortunate as you.
- Help promote special facilities for handicapped with help of public health officer, doctors, nurses, school superintendent.
- Promote good deeds and real community service by doing yard work for aged and handicapped, reading to and entertaining shut-ins, etc.
- Help develop Christmas baskets in cooperation with your local welfare agencies.
- Help raise funds for needed welfare projects.

Safety

- Study traffic hazards and promote their elimination.
- Promote driving courses in your community.
- Improve signs, markings, and signals.
- Conduct bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign.
- Develop farm and home safety programs to prevent accidents.
- Prepare safety education programs for radio, TV, and service clubs.
- Develop water front safety program.

- County health officers.
- State Department of Health.
- County nurse.
- Trained registered nurses.
- County medical society.
- Local doctor.
- Home economics teachers.
- School coaches.
- Service groups.
- Farm organizations.

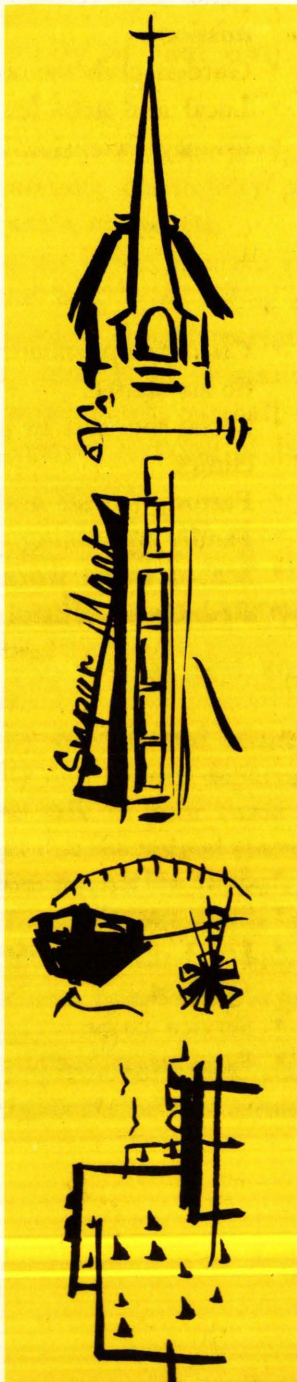
- Soil Conservation Service.
- Local, county and state parks and recreation commissions.
- Garden club members.
- Local and area foresters.
- County Extension Agents.

- County department of public assistance.
- Social workers in guidance clinics.
- Pastors, priests and rabbis.
- Family counseling agencies.
- School social workers.
- Red Cross officials.

- State safety council.
- State patrol.
- Local law enforcement agencies.
- Service clubs.
- Farm organizations.

How to Arrive at Your Plan for Action

1. Group discussion about the facts you found out about your community.
2. Decision on what problem the group will work.
3. Discussion on how to carry out the project.
4. Plan what each member or team will do.



How to Do It

Use brainstorming and buzz groups when you decide what problem to work on. This way every member of your group gets a chance to have his say and decide what to do.

Brainstorming

Sit in a circle, face to face. As the discussion leader points at each member, he gives his idea of what the community needs. Then the next person gives another idea. This is a quick thought "off the top of his mind". If he doesn't have an idea quickly, he just says "Pass". Then the next person gives his idea.

Have a recorder write down all these ideas on the blackboard or big sheets of paper. Go around the circle two or three times—or as long as ideas keep coming.

Buzz Groups

Divide into groups of about five to discuss the ideas on the board. If there are a lot of ideas to discuss, each group can work on only part of the list. Pick a chairman and a recorder by pointing at the person you want. Then, set a time limit for the discussion—say half an hour.

The groups should develop the ideas on the board and choose the best ones. Then, the recorder reports to the whole club on what the group decided. The leader gives a warning signal when there are only a few minutes left. Then the group should agree on their most important ideas.

Share

Recorders report for each group and a blackboard recorder writes down all the ideas presented.

Arrive at Group Agreement

Then the discussion leader asks the group if they want to work on the first idea on the board. Then he asks about the second idea. After he has gone through all the ideas, the group picks the problem they most want to work on.

The Next Step

After you have selected the problem, you may need to find out more about it. You'll need to get more information on what parents, service groups, political groups, etc., think about this problem. You'll also want to find out if other groups or agencies are doing something about this problem. You might write down all the people you'll need to see to learn more about this. Then each member could write his name by the person he wants to talk to before the next meeting.

Making the Plan

At the next meeting, have brainstorming sessions to get out all the ideas about how to work on the problem. Then have buzz groups

decide on the most important ideas. Recorders from the buzz groups then share their ideas with the whole club. All the ideas go up on the blackboard.

Then take a look at obstacles. Maybe there are reasons why your club can't do all of these things. If so, cross these ideas off the list.

Then have buzz groups again. Each buzz group should take five or six minutes to list the three or four most important things on the list. As the buzz groups report, the blackboard recorder puts a check mark beside every favored idea on the list. Erase any item not checked. Those that remain should just about represent the group's plan. Then the discussion leader works through each item on the board with the group to develop agreement on the final plan.

Who Will Do What

When you have the final plan on the board, each member should put his name beside the part of the plan he wants to work on.

Then everybody should put the plan in his record book and mark his part of it.

Records of Plans and Reports

Be sure to make good records of your plans and reports. In your plan, cover the things the club wants to see done in the community, the projects for this year, the names of the chairmen of each committee, and the ways you are going to tell the community about what you are doing. In your report, tell what jobs each member did, the type of project, how long the project took, and how you told the community about the project. Your leader will give you plan and report sheets to fill out.



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