

Hi! My name is Erin Petersilie from the Walnut Creek Extension District. The topic that I choose to talk on today is Strong Communities. Strong Communities is one of the 5 Essential Family and Consumer Sciences Essential Skills.

I think strong communities are important for us all to live in. Strong communities means we have towns and cities where we have the opportunity to shop for things we need and to have fun. I think our community is strong because we have different stores for people to shop. People can go to the grocery store, get their hair cut, get their car or truck fixed, and we have some places to eat. Our town doesn't have a Wal-Mart or McDonalds, but they are close by if we need something. Our town also has a bus to take people that don't drive to where they need to go. Strong communities mean there is something for everybody. We also have parks for kids to play and baseball in the summer. We have a pool for people to swim, but baseball is the only sport we can play unless we are in school. Some towns have summer soccer programs and that would be fun.

4-H helps to make communities strong by doing community service. Our club does things for people in the nursing home like making them blankets and decorating cookies. We also can participate in 48 hours of 4-H where last year our project was to trick-or-treat so that others can eat. We went to people's houses and asked for food to give to our food pantry.

Our school is also important in our town. We learn about helping other people. When we are in middle school and high school, we get to take a day off from school and help do projects in the community. This is good because it helps keep it clean and people get help with projects that they need done.

I think we could teach people what we are doing by putting an article in the paper about what we are doing or stuff on Facebook. We could also have people help us with our projects that are not in 4-H.

When people come to the State Fair, they can get ideas about what other people are doing. Maybe they will see an idea and ask people to come to their town to help them.