Michigan 4-H Service Learning: Even more than Community Service

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Food For thought….

“If you think you are too small to have an impact, try going to bed with a mosquito.”

Anita Roddick
Community Service? Service Learning?

Community Service Learning

- “The Voluntary Action of an individual or group of individuals without pay”
- One time project
- Does not typically include an educational component
- No intentional reflection takes place
- Helps the community

Service

- “Service learning is a strategy that integrates community needs, intentional learning objectives, and structured opportunities for reflection.”
- More intentional
- Longer duration—could be an ongoing project
- Includes learning objectives
- Includes reflection
- Two-way learning
Other thoughts about Community Service/Service Learning…. 

When you hear Community Service what do you think?

Positive or Negative
• Why do Community Service?

• Why do Service Learning?
  • Any service is meaningful!!
  • “The Community Service we did today will be helpful to who receives it (I learned how to make a tie blanket) but through service learning you would learn much more and the project would be better.”
3 Types of Service

Direct Service*** Indirect Service*** Advocacy
Direct Service

• Activities that require participants to establish personal contact with people in need
  • Participants learn to:
    • be responsible for their own actions
    • be dependable
    • make a difference in another person’s life
    • care for another person
    • focus on the needs of others, and put one’s own problems into context—learn empathy
    • get along with people different from one’s self
Indirect Service

- Activities that commonly take place at a neutral meeting place, such as a club meeting, channeling resources to the area of need, rather than working directly with those in need of service.

- Participants learn to:
  - work in a team
  - develop team spirit
  - play different roles in a group
  - take pride in an accomplishment
  - organize to get a job done
  - involve others
  - perform project-specific skills
  - value working with others to solve problems.
Advocacy

- Requires participants to blend their voices and talents to help eliminate the causes of a specific problem.
  - Participants learn to:
    - Persevere
    - Articulate a concern and suggest solutions
    - Work with adults
    - Persuade people to act in a new way
    - Understand relationships among issues
    - Appreciate the duties and privileges of citizenship
    - Appreciate the political process
Planning a Project

1. Identify a need - Needs Assessment of school, community, etc
   Don’t over think!!

2. Research - Seek out information about the problem.
   Remember to get a lot of viewpoints, Ask local experts, Internet

3. Brainstorm - How are you going to help solve the problem?

4. PLAN - Identify groups or individuals that can help

5. Take Action

6. Reflect, Share what you have learned with others! Celebrate
Tons of 4-H Ideas….

• Livestock project members can give to food banks- organize a drive for producers to give a portion too! Advertise at the animal science events in the summer.
• The small engine group can mow lawns for seniors.
• Hold a toy drive for a shelter
• Find out what a shelter needs and then complete the project
• The dog project members can walk dogs for an animal shelter
• Craft Members can organize a mitten, hat and scarf drive.
• A woodworking project group can refinish desks for a school
• A foods and nutrition project group can hold a food drive
• Small animal groups can visit a shelter/retirement home with animals- Carnival in the parking lot????
• The garden project members can donate extra vegetables
Why is Community Service Learning so important?

_Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn._

~ Benjamin Franklin
Welcome to Michigan 4-H and Learning to Give Partnership. We are so excited to be more intentional about serving our communities across the state. Many 4-H clubs participate in service during the year and your communities are so grateful. In partnership with Learning to Give, Michigan 4-H is offering a monthly lesson ideas from the Learning to Give website. We have lessons selected for the full 4-H year with quarterly support Zoom meetings to share and ask questions. We invite all clubs to participate. Everything is possible to do virtually!
Sample Service Activities

- Cloverbuds are MI 4-H members between the ages of 5-7
- Easily adaptable for all ages
- Sections include:
  - What’s it all about?
  - Before Project
  - During Project
  - After Project
  - Resources
  - Focus on Service
  - Reflections and Celebration
  - Variations of this project
Sample Service Activities

What’s it all about?
Service involves looking outside yourself and helping or doing work for your community or individuals within the community.

- Serving the community, the individuals receive benefits because they are a member of the community.
- Serving others also benefits the 4-H member by building life skills that may include:
  - Responsible Citizenship, Teamwork, Character, Concern for Others, Communication, Goal Setting, Problem Solving and many more.
Sample Service Activity

Empowering Cloverbuds
Cloverbuds can participate in community service as much as any other 4-H member. Lessons may need to be adapted for developmental appropriateness, but they can achieve the benefits of service regardless of age.
And

Michigan 4-H Dare to Serve 2021
#4HDARETOSERVE

4-H Summer of Service

Goal: 100% of counties reached by August 31, 2021

Progress: 63 counties completed projects and 20 more counties to go!
National 4-H Council Project Information

https://4-h.org/about/true-leaders-in-service/#overview
4-H Youth in Action Awards

- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEWoLkXporU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEWoLkXporU) Addy Battel’s story
- [https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/#!2022-finalists](https://4-h.org/parents/4-h-youth-in-action-awards/#!2022-finalists)
- The 4-H Youth in Action Program recognizes four confident young leaders in pillar areas: agriculture, civic engagement, healthy living and STEM.
- Each year, Pillar Winners will experience an exciting year of telling their 4-H story and celebrating their leadership. Winners receive:
  - $5,000 higher education scholarship
  - Promotional video showcasing their 4-H impact story
  - All-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. for National 4-H Council’s Legacy Awards
  - Networking opportunities with 4-H celebrities and other prominent alumni
  - Recognition as the official 4-H youth spokesperson for their pillar
Questions

We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean but the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.
------Mother Theresa