

# Positive Youth Development OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS Meeting Plan

## Background



Opportunity for service to others means that youth are given the chance to be actively engaged in helping others not only within their club, but in the larger community as well. Youth are given opportunities to practice service to others and through these opportunities further enhance their understanding of civic duty, ethics and the importance of service.

### **Assessment: Are there opportunities for service within our group?**

- Are youth encouraged to use their time and energy in helping others? How often?
- Are relationships with other organizations in the community emphasized? If not, what could be done to build relationships?
- Are there opportunities for civic involvement? What kind of opportunities?
- Are there opportunities to discuss and reflect on what was learned during the service projects? If not, what do we need to do?

**Anything shared here we need to discuss or work on together?  
(Write it down.)**

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**Roll Call Suggestions**



Tell one way you have helped the community as part of this group.

Tell one thing that you have done to help someone else in this group.

Tell of a time when you noticed someone else (youth or adult) assisting others in the group.

Share one reason it is important that this group is involved with service to the community.

Think of an activity or service our group could provide to others in the community.

**Activities to Emphasize a Safe Environment**

*Refer to the following Activities Guides:*

**What Is Important to Me?**

**Caring for Others**

**Go Team!**

**What's the Plan?**

# Activity Guide for OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS - 1 -

## What Is Important to Me?

**Materials needed for each participant:**  
"What Is Important to Me?" handout,  
pencils



This activity allows members to think about the people and things they value and the difference among what people value.

- Give 4-H members a copy of the "What is Important to Me" handout and a pencil.
- Review the directions on the handout, and have 4-H members complete the activity individually. Give members approximately 5-10 minutes to complete this part of the activity
- After they have completed the "What is Important to Me" handout individually, have them discuss their lists with a partner. Have them look for similarities and differences in their answers not only in what they value, but also in how they think they could lose or keep things important to them.

After the partners have discussed their answers to "What Is Important to Me?" here are two suggestions:

- Have each group of partners share one item that they had in common or one item that was different on their handouts.
- Have the partners join with other partners and work in small groups to continue the discussion. Once the small groups have had time for discussion, have a few groups share some commonalities and differences.

### "What is Important to Me" Processing Questions

#### *Sharing*

- Did anything that you wrote down surprise you?
- Was it hard to share with others the things that are important to you?

#### *Processing*

- Based on your list, do you place more value in people, things or beliefs?
- What did you find most interesting from the information that your partner/small group shared?

#### *Generalizing*

- How important is it to know what you value and what others value?

#### *Applying*

- What is a good way to learn what other people value?

This activity is adapted from University of Illinois's *Leadership Development Through Community Action*.

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### Caring for Others

#### Materials needed:

"Caring for Others" handout, pencil, newsprint, markers, small soft toy or ball



This activity allows 4-H members to gain an understanding of how to relate to other people and how to appreciate the differences among people. This is important when working with serving others because often times what *we* think about a situation may not be the same as what *they* think.

- Have 4-H members pass the ball from person to person. When one person has the ball, he or she should answer the question, "What does it mean to care about someone or something?"
- Record the answers on newsprint.
- Next have the 4-H members partner with someone they are not already really familiar with. Pass out the copies of the handout "Caring for Others." Explain that each 4-H member should choose five questions to ask his or her partner. After a few minutes, have the members switch roles.
- If the 4-H members feel comfortable, have them share their answers with the large group. Otherwise, follow-up with the processing questions.

### "Caring for Others" Processing Questions

#### *Sharing*

- What does it mean to be a caring person?
- How did it feel to share your ideas with your partner?

#### *Processing*

- How does it feel when you show kindness to someone in our group?
- How does it feel when someone in the group shows kindness to you?

#### *Generalizing*

- What are some things that your group already does to show kindness to one another?

#### *Applying*

- What can you do to show more kindness to other members of your group?

*This activity is adapted from University of Illinois's Leadership Development Through Community Action.*

# Activity Guide for OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS - 3 -

## Go TEAM!



This activity will help 4-H members understand that everyone's assistance is needed and that each person brings a unique perspective. It will also look at the possible frustrations that occur during service projects and how to overcome that.

- Have the 4-H members stand in a circle facing each other (shoulder to shoulder).
- Instruct each 4-H member to reach out with the right hand. They should grab another person's hand (not the person next to them). Once they have grasped a person's hand, they cannot let go.
- Now have each person use the left hand to grasp the hand of another person (not the same person their right hand is connected to). Again, once they have grabbed a hand, they cannot let go.
- This should look like a tangled knot. Instruct them that the goal of the team is to untangle the group without letting go of anyone's hand.
- As a facilitator, pay attention to the group dynamics: does a leader emerge, are all participants engaged in the activity, what effect do negative/positive comments among group members have, etc.

### Notes:

- *If you have students who are physically unable to participate or uncomfortable with the closeness of the activity, allow them to be 'observers' who can assist by giving directions.*
- *Using knee-high pantyhose for the participants to connect with rather than holding hands can be useful as well, both because it allows more freedom and doesn't require holding hands.*
- *Sometimes the tangle will result in two separate circles-that is still a success-it just varies by how people grasped hands.*

### "Go Team" Processing Questions

#### **Sharing**

- How did it feel when you first started to become all tangled up?
- Did you think you were going to be successful in untangling yourselves?

#### **Processing**

- Did any leaders emerge? If so, how did this happen?
- Was it difficult to voice your opinion and have everyone listen?

#### **Generalizing**

- Was everyone engaged in the group activity? What would happen if one person let go?
- How does this relate to community service?

#### **Applying**

- When you are working together on a service project or other activity, do you ever feel frustrated or that the task is impossible? How do you overcome those feelings?
- What strengths does your club have because of the variety of members?

# Activity Guide for OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS - 4 -

## What's the Plan?

### Materials needed:

Newsprint, paper, markers, crayons, etc.



This activity allows 4-H members to think about the concept of serving others in the community. 4-H Members will understand the benefits of both giving and receiving help, identifying reasons that people serve, and thinking about ways they can help others.

- Write the word *COMMUNITY* on a large piece of newsprint. Have 4-H members brainstorm, as a large group, the various types of communities they participate in (i.e. school, classroom, club, city, county, state, nation, sports team, religious group). Write their answers on the newsprint under the word '*COMMUNITY*'.
- On a separate sheet of newsprint, write the word *SERVICE*. Ask 4-H members to think about different types of service they have performed or seen performed. Write their answers on the newsprint.
- Now, have the 4-H members divide into small groups to discuss which "community" they would like to focus on, as well as some different types of service opportunities.
- Pass out paper and art supplies. Have small groups draw symbols or pictures to represent the services they would like to offer to the community. In addition, have one group member compile a list of the activities.
- Have each group share their ideas and have all the members discuss which ideas they would like to work on as a club for the upcoming month/year/etc.

*This activity was adapted from Youth Service America toolbox. For more information, visit [www.gysd.net](http://www.gysd.net).*

# Activity Guide for OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE TO OTHERS - 5 -



## "What's the Plan?" Processing Questions

### *Sharing*

- Was it difficult to come up with service ideas for your community?
- Did your small group come up with ideas you hadn't thought of?

### *Processing*

- Were there any things you thought would be difficult to accomplish?
- What service do you most enjoy providing for your community?

### *Generalizing*

- Why is it important to contribute to your community?
- What can you learn when you do something for someone else?

### *Applying*

- How can you incorporate service activities into your club meetings or events and other county/state programs?
- What skills do you have that your community can use?

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