



## Citizenship Project Brief

### Learning Objectives

- Identify issues important to yourself and your community
- Acquire skills to improve conditions in your community
- Formulate and explain new ideas for community improvement
- Demonstrate the ability to put a plan into action

### Fair Projects (building)

- Create an educational display that describes your project including maps, goals, and identification of partners and challenges
- Presentation materials from community projects
- Journal or portfolio of how the project evolved: create a public adventures notebook
- Poster detailing completion of one of the activities
- PowerPoint presentation of the Citizenship project

### Demonstration Ideas

- Ways to identify stakeholders in your project
- How to create a community action plan
- Demonstrate fundraising techniques
- How to make a public service announcement
- How to write a press release

### Field Trips

- Attend a city council meeting
- Interview professionals in your community (banks, insurance companies, real estate offices, investment companies, etc.)
- Create and get signatures for a petition
- Talk to local media

### Ideas for Speech Topics

- Present you ideas for community betterment
- Discuss the needs of seniors
- Describe potential environmental dangers
- The struggle for democracy in American history
- Ethics in public service
- Health and safety
- Responsible community growth
- School improvement

### Critical Thinking

- What are the definitions of citizenship and democracy? What do these words mean to you?
- Why is it important to consider multiple viewpoints when making a public policy decision?
- Who are the constituents in your community?
- How can you make a difference in your community environment?

### Community Service

- Set up a neighborhood volunteer chores program
- Hold a fundraising activity for a community group
- Create fun afterschool programs
- Open a food bank
- Lead activities for seniors
- Establish an environmental improvement club
- Volunteer at voting polls

### Science & Technology

How do you use Science and Technology in this project area?

Examples:

- Research news stories and current events
- Conduct online petitions
- Look for statistics relevant to a community betterment topic
- Record a 30 second public service announcement

### Show Me Character

**Trustworthiness** - includes honesty, promise keeping and loyalty.

- Account for money and inventory accurately

**Respect** - includes courtesy and proper treatment of people and things.

- Listen to opinions from all sides of an issue
- Dress and keep appropriate appearances when representing an organization

**Responsibility** - includes the pursuit of excellence, accountability and perseverance.

- Organize and plan for community improvement
- Deal with criticism positively

**Fairness** - involves consistently applying rules and standards appropriately for different age groups and ability levels.

- Keep a consistent code of ethics
- Don't discriminate against segments of the population for personal reasons

**Caring** - involves promoting the well being of people and things in a young person's world. It denotes action and not just feelings.

- Show you care by donating products or time to someone special
- Give your time to help friends when they are in need

**Citizenship** - includes making the home community and county a better place to live for yourself and others.

- Participate in local business community fundraisers
- Get involved in political activity and community decision making
- Practice environmental friendly behavior
- Sponsor youth activities
- Work with or create a non-profit business venture

**Citizenship** - involves making the home community and county a better place to live for themselves and others.

- Be a volunteer; help out whenever you can
- Play by the rules of your local clubs and fairs
- Don't try to cut corners - follow the rules

## Resources

Y620 4-H Project Record

Y 4120 Growing With Others

LG4140 Grow All Together Helpers Activity Guide

## 283 Virtual Communities

Suggested software and ages: Sim City (ages 9-18)

Project information at

[4h.missouri.edu/projects/communities](http://4h.missouri.edu/projects/communities)

## To Order

Extension Publications online at <http://extension.missouri.edu/explore/shop/> or by phone 1-800-292-0969

For additional resources check with your local University of Missouri Extension Center or the 4-H Source Book at <http://www.4-hmall.org/educationalresources.aspx>.

## Show Me Standards

Missouri 4-H members will acquire the knowledge and skills to gather, analyze and apply information and ideas, communicate effectively, recognize and solve problems, make decisions and act as responsible members of society.

4-H members will acquire a solid foundation which includes knowledge of:

- **Physical Education** - consumer health issues (such as the effects of mass media and technologies on safety and health)
- **Communication Arts** - participating in formal and informal presentation and discussions of issues and ideas
- **Mathematics** - data analysis, probability and statistics
- **Science** - characteristics and interactions of living organisms; impact of science, technology and human activity on resources and the environment
- **Social Studies** - economic concepts (including productivity and the market system) and principles (including the laws of supply and demand)