



Service-Learning Workshop Facilitator Guide

This workshop guide is for 4-H professionals, club leaders, and volunteers who are interested in developing an understanding and skill set in service-learning in themselves and their 4-H members. This workshop can be offered at 4-H events at the club, county, and regional level. It was piloted at two Missouri 4-H Regional Energizers in February 2018.



Learning Objectives

- Define community service and service-learning
- List the benefits of service-learning
- Identify the steps of service-learning

Target Audience

- Youth (ages 11-18)
- Adults
- 4-H volunteers



Timeframe (Total: 1 hour)

- Introduction/Opening Questions (5 minutes)
- Objective 1: The Difference (5 minutes)
- Activity 1 (5 minutes)
- Objective 2: Benefits of Service-Learning (5 minutes)
- Activity 2 (5 minutes)
- Objective 3: Five Steps of a Service-Learning Project (5 minutes)
- Activity 3 (15 minutes)
- Reflection (5 minutes)
- Resources (5 minutes)
- Advancement Opportunities (5 minutes)



Materials Needed

- “Service-Learning” PowerPoint presentation with speaker notes
- Computer, projector, and screen
- Copies of “Activity 1 and Activity 2” for each group of 4-5 participants
- Copies of “Activity 3” for each participant
- Pencils/pens



Introduction

Many 4-H clubs hold community service activities throughout the year. However, these activities can be taken to a new level with service-learning. Service-learning applies what is being learned by youth to service projects and involves youth in the entire process. *Start this workshop by asking a couple questions to gauge how involved members are in service activities. Ask the group the following opening questions and allow for discussion.*

Opening Questions:

- How many of you have participated in a service-learning project with your 4-H club?
- How about through other organizations, with your family, friends, church youth group, or school?

The Difference

Often times, the terms 'community service' and 'service-learning' are used interchangeably and the difference can be confusing. *Describe each using the following bullet points.*

- Community Service
 - volunteer work 4-H members do in their communities
 - involves members sharing their time or resources with others in the community
- Service-Learning
 - applies what is being learned in 4-H, school, and/or afterschool programs in service to the community
 - occurs when youth are involved in selecting and planning the project, setting goals for their learning, conducting the project, and reflecting on their service

Activity 1:

Have the session split into groups of 4-5 members. Let's take time to practice what you have just learned and divide project examples into 'community service' and 'service-learning'. Give the members a couple minutes to sort the examples. Once everyone is done, ask the groups to share their results before giving the correct answers. Examples should be sorted as follows:

Community Service: host a food drive, picking up trash along a road, singing at a nursing home, read to elementary students at a local school

Service-Learning: learn about the environment and American history while planting a liberty tree, learn about living a healthy lifestyle by offering cooking classes at the community center, become informed on the impacts on communities of natural disasters by planning and leading a session on disaster preparedness, promote agriculture by hosting a "from the farm to you" program to explain where food comes from

Ask members what they see is different about the projects in the two sorted groups.



Benefits of Service-Learning

Since service-learning involves more than just performing a task, you could guess there are several benefits for the youth members and the community that accompany the process. *Describe the benefits for each using the following bullet points.*

- Youth members
 - Enhance problem-solving skills, ability to work in teams, and planning abilities
 - Enhance civic engagement attitudes, skills, and behaviors
 - Learn they can impact real social challenges
 - Learn how to be knowledgeable citizens who actively contribute to their communities
- Community
 - Builds positive relationships with youth
 - Cultivates a new generation of caring and experienced citizens
 - Has real needs and priorities met

Ask the members if they have any questions about any of these benefits or have additional benefits they would add to the list.

Five Steps of a Service-Learning Project

When starting a service-learning project, there are several steps to keep in mind that will help you stay on track for a successful project. *Before sharing the steps, see if youth members can identify them and place them in the correct order.*

Activity 2:

Place the service-learning steps in the order you think they occur. *Ask why they chose that order or sequence. If they are not in the correct order (see below), ask the youth to keep trying. Explain each of the five steps using the descriptions below.*

- Investigate
 - Identify and deepen your understanding of a community issue or cause
 - *What could this be?*
- Prepare & Plan
 - Set an educational goal for what you want to learn and how you will determine your success
 - S.M.A.R.T (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) Goal
 - Identify community partners, organize a plan of action, clarify roles, and build timelines
 - *Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?*
- Act
 - Work as a team to implement your action plan
 - *What does this look like? Youth and adults working together?*



- Reflect
 - Explore your thoughts and feelings about the project during the process and when you are finished
 - *What are some ways to reflect? What kinds of questions could you ask?*
- Communicate & Celebrate
 - Capture what you have learned, the steps you have taken, and the impact of your projects
 - Share your story to further educate and inform the community
 - Celebrate your accomplishments
 - *What are some ways to share your story? How will you celebrate?*

Once correct, have the youth move the cards into a circle. Service-learning is not a linear (or once-and-done) process, but it is circular or cyclical (or keeps on going). Reflection and communicate/celebrate steps can lead back into investigate, and the process starts over. Apply this to whether a 4-H club does the same project year-to-year, or different projects that affect the same community or issue (stream cleanup).

Activity 3:

From community service project to service-learning: now let's think about the five steps of a service-learning project and change the given community service activity into a service-learning project. *Give the members the following community service activity and ask them to change it into a service-learning project. Allow several minutes for groups to work on this. Walk around the room and make sure groups are on track and offer advice if needed. Once groups are done, regather, take turns sharing ideas, and work through the Activity 3 questions. An example for the service-learning answer, broken down by each step, is listed below.*

Community service activity

Members work together to clean litter and debris out of a local stream.

Service-Learning project (possible answer)

1. 4-H members notice locals are no longer fishing alongside a popular stream. The 4-H club identifies the dirty stream as an issue in the community. Members study the effect of litter in the stream on fish habitat and the environment. **2.** The club identifies the Missouri Department of Conservation as a resource for information about stream environments and a source for clean-up supplies. Members of the club work together to create a plan of when the clean-up will take place and where each group will start. **3.** During the day of the clean-up, 20 members spend a total of 2 hours cleaning the stream. **4.** After the project is finished, the club reflects on how the project has influenced each member and the community and what was learned from the experience. **5.** Finally, they share the club's story with the local newspaper to further educate and inform the community. The members celebrated by having a pizza party before their next meeting.



Questions for Activity 3:

- What makes your service-learning project different from the community service activity?
- What benefits to members/communities get from participating in a service-learning project instead of a community service activity?

Try it on your own!

If additional time is available, ask members to think of a community service project in their own community that they could transform into service-learning. Since you have been successful in changing one community service activity into a service-learning project, think about how a community service activity in your community can be improved by using what you have learned about service-learning. If there are groups of members from the same club/county, you may encourage them to work together to produce a project that can be used back in their community. Walk around and check in with groups to see what they are doing and if they need any help. Once everyone is finished, have groups share their ideas.

Resources

There are several useful resources and grants relating to service-learning projects. Be sure to check out what opportunities are available to your club or county. *Go through each of the opportunities listed below and then discuss the questions about resources.*

- Missouri 4-H Service-Learning
 - True Leaders in Service info
 - Project ideas and plans
 - Volunteer guide sheets
 - Youth Civic Leaders Summit
 - <http://4h.missouri.edu/service/main>
- Missouri 4-H Foundation Community Service Grants
 - Sponsored by Crader Distributing and DuPont Pioneer
 - Up to \$1,000; accepted year-round
 - Projects should be youth driven, offer opportunities to serve, work, and develop skills, reflect on youth/community partnerships, geared to a skill level of youth participants, and demonstrate a return on investment in the community
 - <http://4h.missouri.edu/foundation/community-service.aspx>
- FCS Financial
 - \$500 grants; due April 1
 - projects must be of tangible value where outcome can be seen or touched
 - <https://www.myfcsfinancial.com/how-we-are-different/shaping-rural-missouri-grant/>



- Missouri Department of Agriculture Building Our American Communities
 - \$500 grants; due December 1
 - projects should benefit agricultural community or promote community development
 - <http://agriculture.mo.gov/connect/youth/boac.php>

Questions for Resources:

- Has your group ever applied for 4-H community service-learning funding from any of these sources? Why or why not?
- What would you need to better access additional funding for projects?
- What other support might you need to “better your best” with service-learning?

Advancement Opportunities

Service-learning does not have to end when you leave 4-H. Check out a couple of these advancement opportunities!

- Monsanto High School Service Scholarships
 - provides scholarships for high school student-volunteers who are committed to improving their communities, while inspiring others to serve through their volunteerism. Freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors who attend a high school in Missouri and reside in Missouri, are eligible to be nominated if they meet or exceed the nomination criteria.
 - <https://www.movolunteers.org/awards.htm>
- AmeriCorps
 - network of local, state, and national service programs that connects over 70,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet community needs in education, the environment, public safety, health, and homeland security
 - <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameriCorps>

Reflection

A key component of service-learning is reflection. Reflection questions are a good way to find the “take-aways” from the experience. That being said, we would like to ask you a few questions about today’s workshop. *Ask the group each question and discuss their responses.*

- What is one new thing you learned today?
- How will you use this information in your community?
- Why is it important to serve your community?
- What is one action you will take in the near future relating to service-learning?



Wrap Up and Thanks!

Thank you for participating in this service-learning workshop! You are now prepared to plan and execute a successful service-learning project in your community! You have learned the difference between community service and service-learning, listed the benefits of service-learning for youth members and communities, identified the five steps of service-learning, and put all the pieces together to change a community service activity to a service-learning project. Be thinking of ways to utilize the resources mentioned at the end of this workshop and take the time to identify some specific to your community. Consider exploring advancement opportunities to further your service-learning contributions and continue to make the best better!

Credits

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