



**SERVICE
LEARNING**

MISSOURI 4-H

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

- 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

- Divide the project examples into ‘community service’ and ‘service-learning’
- Community Service
 - Hosting a food drive, picking up trash along a road, singing at a nursing home, reading to elementary students at a local school
- Service-Learning
 - Learning about the environment and American history by planting a Liberty Tree, learning about healthy living by offering cooking classes at the community center, becoming informed of the impacts of natural disasters and hosting a disaster preparedness session, promote agriculture and explain where food comes from by hosting a “from the farm to you” event

BENEFITS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

- 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
 - Cultivate a new generation of caring and experienced citizens
 - Have real needs and priorities met

ACTIVITY 2

- Place the five steps of a service-learning project in the correct order.



FIVE STEPS OF SERVICE-LEARNING

- **Investigate**
 - Identify and deepen your understanding of a community issue or cause
- **Prepare & Plan**
 - Set an educational goal for what you want to learn and how you will determine your success
 - SMART Goal
 - Identify community partners, organize a plan of action, clarify roles, and build timelines
- **Act**
 - Work as a team to implement your action plan
- **Reflect**
 - Explore your thoughts and feelings about the project during the process and when you are finished
- **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

ACTIVITY 3: PART 1

- Think about the five steps of a service-learning project and change the following community service activity into a service-learning project
- Community Service Activity
 - Members work together to clean litter and debris out of a local stream.



ACTIVITY 3: PART 2

- Service-Learning
 - 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. 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. During the day of the clean-up, 20 members spend a total of 2 hours cleaning the stream. 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. 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.

ACTIVITY 3: PART 3

- Now try converting your club's community service project into a service-learning project.
 - Keep the 5 Steps of Service Learning in mind



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
 - <http://4h.missouri.edu/foundation/community-service.aspx>

RESOURCES

- 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>

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- 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/americancorps>
- Monsanto High School Service Scholarship
 - 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>

REFLECTION

- 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!**