



# Missouri 4-H Community Service-Learning Census 2017-2018

## Introduction

4-H clubs enjoy helping out their neighbors and strengthening their communities through service-learning! Adult club leaders support 4-H members in planning and doing meaningful work that meets a local need or opportunity, and accomplishes a learning objective set by youth. 4-H members reflect and think critically about the influence service has had on them and others.

As 4-H “Inspires Kids to Do,” clubs provide service to their communities over time, yielding benefits of engaged youth and adults, leadership development, strong intergenerational ties, and locally met needs.

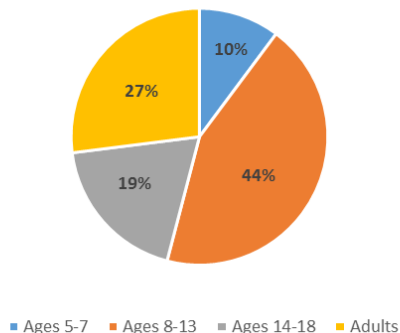


## By the Numbers

During 2017-18, 4-H members and clubs across Missouri engaged in service to “better their best” and to enhance their communities:

- **273 clubs from 71 counties** reported community service-learning activities for 2017-18. These clubs reported more than **\*172,565 hours of service**, a contribution **valued at nearly \$4.3 million** to Missouri communities (Independent Sector).
- **The average Missouri 4-H club engaged 90 youth and 33 adults in over \*630 hours of service**, a “giving back” contribution valued at over \$15,600 per club to their metro and non-metro communities.
- **Youth ages 8-13 made up the largest portion of 4-H volunteers serving their communities** (44%), with adult volunteers (27%), teen 4-H members (19%), and Clover Kids ages 5-7 (10%) rounding out the base of participants in organized service projects.
- Clubs reported 7,397 club members and 1,969 adult leaders participating in **1,522 organized service activities**.

4-H Club Service Participants by Age

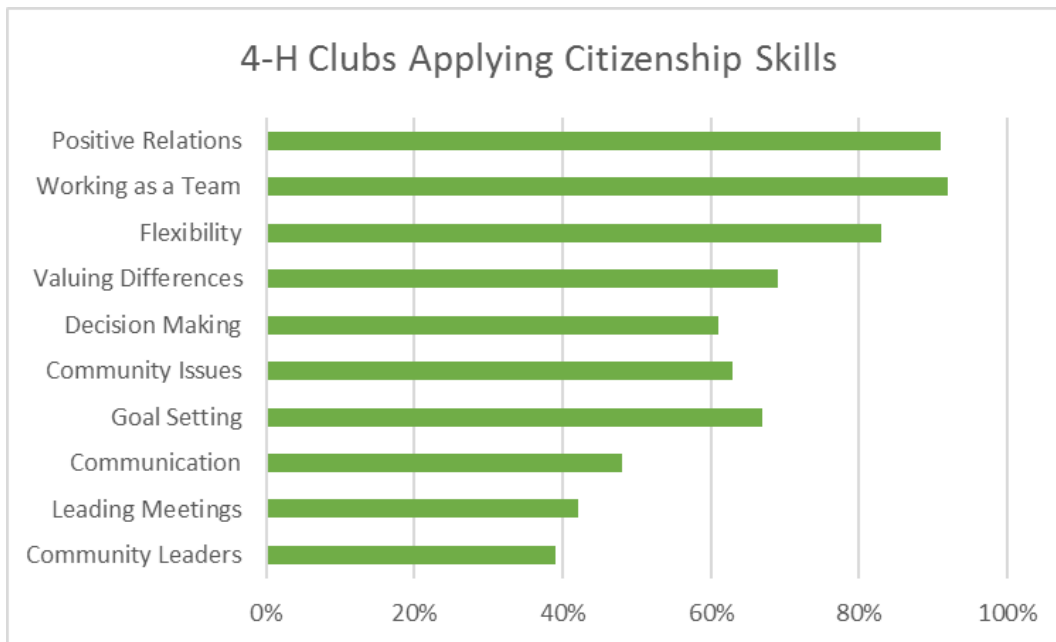


- **\*Reported hours include time clubs spent in conducting service projects**, but may not fully include time spent planning, preparing, and reflecting on service.
- **With 1,200 clubs in 2017-18, Missouri 4-H members spent an estimated total of 758,400 hours in service-learning, a contribution of \$18.7 million back to communities.**



## Citizenship Skills

4-H club leaders reported on citizenship skills they observed 4-H members demonstrating through planning and conducting service-learning projects. The table below summarizes the percentage of respondents who observed and commented on specific skills in action:



**The most commonly reported skill areas** were “Working together as a team” (92%) and “Developing positive relationships” (91%).

**The least frequently reported skill areas** were “Leading meetings with parliamentary procedure” (42%) and “Interacting with local and/or state government leaders” (39%).

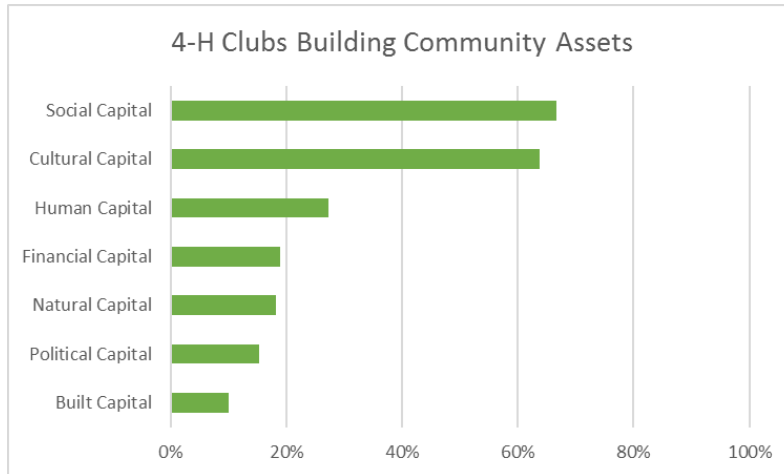
**Other key skills 4-H youth gained** included “Being flexible and adaptable” (83%), “Valuing and respecting differences” (69%), and “Setting goals and determining steps to reach them” (67%).

### Citizenship skills in action:

- “Our 4-H members learned to identify and discuss community issues by getting involved in projects we had never done before. Through our Backpack Project, our group learned that there are kids out there in our very own community that may not have enough food for the weekend. The leaders we connected with to make this project happen explained the need and how important the project is to our community. This project opened the eyes of your youth, and we were able to find a need and fill it.” (Shooting 4-H Club, Cass County)
- “Our members learned to show respect for the elderly and build friendships with community members. We were able to understand differences in our community and work together for the greater good. With the VFW flag retirement, the youth learned about the respect of the flag and all that it represents to those who served. They learned what the ceremony consisted of, how to show respect to the United States of America, and how to correctly salute.” (Clinton Cool 4-H Club, Henry County)



## Community Assets



4-H club leaders also reported on which community assets were enhanced by youth planning and conducting service-learning projects. The table above summarizes the percentage of leaders who observed specific asset building across seven different categories.

**The most commonly reported community assets built by service** were Social Capital (“Helping others,” 66%) and Cultural Capital (“Community spirit,” 65%).

**The least frequently reported community assets built by service** were Political Capital (“Connecting with elected officials,” 16%) and Built Capital (“Building improvements,” 10%).

**One noteworthy community asset** 4-Hers were observed to build was Human Capital, characterized by 4-H members “Teaching others” (27%) through educational programs or awareness building.

### Community asset building in action:

- The Merry Martins 4-H Club (Audrain County) helped with fundraising events put on by the Audrain County 4-H Foundation, Fair Board, and Council. The organization fundraisers supported the maintenance of the Community Room where club meetings are held (Built Capital, Social Capital, Financial Capital, Cultural Capital).
- The Classy Clovers 4-H Club (Jackson County) planted a Liberty Tree at Rotary Park in Blue Springs (Natural Capital, Human Capital, Political Capital, Cultural Capital).

## Community Service Grants

### Missouri 4-H Foundation

*Sponsored by Crader Distributing and DuPont Pioneer*

- Accepted year-round
- Offers grants of up to \$1,000 to match funding for a 4-H community service project
- Projects are 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
- Successful project examples: lake improvements and waterfowl box construction, community vegetable gardens, day camps and events for special needs youth, recycling events, STEM day camps, landscaping projects, etc.

### 2018 4-H Recipients

- Cape Girardeau County, Chariton County, Macon County, Putnam County, Randolph County, Shelby County, St. Louis County

Grant Application and Report Forms available at:

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



## ***Going Forward***

### **Missouri 4-H club leaders and volunteers can build upon community service-learning activities with their clubs by:**

- Ramping up service activities with higher leadership and civic responsibility for teens, ages 14-18
- Identifying service activities inclusive of Clover Kids
- Challenging 4-H members to look at their community with fresh eyes and choose service projects they are uniquely prepared to tackle as a group
- Guiding all 4-H members in planning and setting goals
- Supporting older 4-H members in leading service to learn project management and facilitation skills
- Guiding all 4-H members in reflecting on the meaning and value of service, the impact serving had on themselves, others, and their community, and new knowledge about the community and community issues

### **Missouri 4-H staff can support clubs and county groups with community service-learning by:**

- Guiding 4-H youth and adult leaders in making connections between service and skills for college/career readiness
- Encouraging service that involves 4-Hers “teaching others”
- Guiding 4-H groups in thinking beyond quick-fix projects
- Supporting youth communication skill-building and project
- Promoting direct interaction between 4-Hers and city and county government officials
- Communicating to 4-H sponsors and stakeholders how clubs are bolstering community pride and spirit, and building stronger communities through service

### ***To Learn More...***

- [Missouri 4-H Community Service-Learning](#)
- [Missouri Youth Civic Leaders Summit](#)
- [How 4-H is Inspiring Kids to Do](#)
- [How 4-H Youth Are Leading Positive Change in Rural America](#)

The Missouri 4-H Community Service-Learning Census is based on data from Form LG760 Youth Service to Communities, filled out annually by Missouri 4-H clubs. For more information, please contact Steve Henness, State 4-H Specialist, 4-H Center for Youth Development, [henness@missouri.edu](mailto:henness@missouri.edu).

## **Community Service Grants**

### **Missouri Dept. of Agriculture**

- Building Our American Communities (BOAC) grants
- \$500 to 4-H groups due Dec. 1
- Projects benefit agricultural community or promote community development
- May include improvements to existing facilities, grounds, or buildings used by the community

#### **2018 4-H Recipients**

- Atchison County, Barton County, Butler County, Linn County, Moniteau County, Newton County, St. Francois County, Sullivan County, Warren County
- <http://agriculture.mo.gov/connect/youth/boac.php>

### **FCS Financial**

- Shaping Rural Missouri grants
- \$500 to 4-H groups due April 1
- Projects must be tangible where outcome can be seen or touched

#### **2018 4-H Recipients**

- Andrew County, Audrain County, Barton County, Buchanan County, Callaway County, Cass County, Cedar County, Clark County, Dallas County, Harrison County, Henry County, Holt County, Knox County, Lafayette County, Monroe County, Pettis County, Putman County, Ray County, Sullivan County, and Warren County

<https://www.myfcsfinancial.com/how-we-are-different/shaping-rural-missouri-grant/>