

Setting S.M.A.R.T. Goals

If your 4-H group is setting goals and objectives for a service-learning project, explore these points to ensure their goals are S.M.A.R.T.!

Specific

Is your group's goal specific? Does it offer enough information so others can understand exactly what you want to accomplish? Answer who, what, where, and why. (i.e. Our 4-H club wants to plant a Liberty Tree in a local city park to show patriotism.)

Measurable

Is your group's goal measurable? How will you measure your progress or the difference you make - in numbers or quantities? How will you know when your goal is accomplished? (i.e. We will partner with at least 3 local civic organizations on planting and sustaining the tree.)

Achievable

Is your group's goal achievable? Do you have sufficient funding? Are the members of your club equipped with the needed abilities and skills? Do you have sufficient time to accomplish our objective? (i.e. Our club members will get permission from the city to plant the tree and consult with our MU Extension Horticulture Specialist on specifics for tree planting.)

Relevant

Is your group's goal relevant? Does it meet a need in your community? Is your goal significant and worthwhile? (i.e. We will invite local veterans to attend a dedication ceremony following the planting to show our appreciation.)

Time-bound

Is your group's goal time-bound? When would you like to take on and achieve your goal? (i.e. We will plant the tree in the spring and have a dedication ceremony within one month of the planting.)

S.M.A.R.T. Goal

Our club's goal is to plant a Liberty Tree in a local city park to show patriotism, by having the club work with at least 3 local civic organizations on planting and sustaining the tree, along with getting permission from the city to plant and consulting with our MU Extension Horticulture Specialist on specifics for tree planting. We will plant the tree in the spring and hold a dedication ceremony for local veterans within one month of planting.



(Source: West Virginia Dept. of Education)