

Community Service Projects for 4-H Members While Social Distancing

I pledge my HANDS to larger service. Community Service is part of the 4-H program but in this time of social distancing, clubs must think differently about how to serve. Below are ideas for community service projects that can be done during this time of social distancing.

As you are thinking about which project you might choose remember...

- If you choose a project like tutoring a student or giving a virtual art lesson, you should never be alone with that person. The student's parent or a sibling could participate or you could have a friend help.
- With projects where you are making items to donate, it is a good idea to check with the facility or organization where you want to donate and be sure that those items are being accepted.
- 4-Hers should choose project(s) in consultation with a parent or guardian.

HELP STUDENTS WHO ARE LEARNING VIRTUALLY



Reach out to teachers in your area and see if there are students who need extra help with school work. You could help by doing virtual tutoring.

MAKE 4-H RELATED VIDEOS



Create videos to share and help others learn. What might you demonstrate? Livestock Fitting or Showmanship. How to give your chicken a bath. How to trim your dog's nails. Things to put in a show box. A recipe from a food and nutrition book. A science activity. How to sew on a button. How to wash a load of laundry. The list is endless - be creative and share what you know!

HAVE FOOD DELIVERED TO ESSENTIAL WORKERS



Arrange for the delivery of a meal or special treat to those workers who are essential. Have pizza delivered to hospital workers, send cookies to grocery store workers, leave a snack for delivery workers such as mail carriers...

READ A STORY



Choose your favorite children's book or ask an elementary teacher if there is one his or her class might like. Record yourself reading the book - use fun voices, show the pictures, wear a costume related to the book while you read. Share the recordings with teachers or parents to use with students.

CHECK IN ON SENIOR CITIZENS



Older individuals may feel isolated during this time of staying at home – make a phone call, send a card or a letter. Reach out to those who might just need someone to talk with.

FOSTER A PET



During this time, some animals are being surrendered to local shelters. When stay at home orders are lifted, contact an animal shelter to see if there are pets that need to be fostered.



RECORD A GET WELL MESSAGE



Record a video with a get well message for individuals who are sick. You can include your first name and 4-H Club name. Check with area health care providers to find individuals in need of cheer.

SORT AND DONATE



You may have extra time now. Use that time to sort through your clothes, toys and other household items. Make a box of unwanted items to donate at a later time. Clean out your bookshelf of older, lightly used DVDs and books and donate them to a local children's hospital or nursing home.

MAKE PET TOYS



Club members can make toys while at home and then donate as a club when face to face activities can resume. Find an easy idea here: <http://4h.ucanr.edu/files/287220.pdf>. As always call your local shelter to see if they are accepting donations of toys.

HOMEMADE BOOK MARKS

Make homemade bookmarks which you can later donate to your local or school library or a nursing home. You could even make a few extras to trade with friends. Find ideas at: <https://homesthetics.net/diy-bookmarks/>



PLANT A GARDEN



Plant a garden in the ground, a raised bed, or in containers. The produce from the garden can be donated to those in need. Looking for resources to help you plan and plant your garden? The Junior Master Gardener Program provides a variety of resources. Look for those at: <http://jmgkids.us/kids-zone/>

SHARE YOUR MUSIC OR ART TALENT



Do you have special talents that you can share? Give free virtual music lessons or art classes. You can even choose an activity that specifically matches a 4-H project like Getting Started with Art. Remember to follow Ohio 4-H guidelines and do not be one on one with anyone.



MAKE NON-SLIP SOCKS

Make non-slip socks for seniors and donate to a nursing home. Hospitals might be another place that would appreciate a donation of non-slip socks. You can find directions here: <https://www.wikihow.com/Make-Non-Slip-Socks>



SAY THANK YOU



Write a thank you note to healthcare providers, teachers, grocery store workers, your 4-H Club advisor or anyone else who is performing essential work at this time. It is a good idea to check and see if it is okay to send the original by mail or if you should scan/email them copies of these instead.

SPREAD CHEER IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD



Spread positive messages in your neighborhood by creating sidewalk chalk art or painting kindness rocks. Leave a container with the kindness rocks at the end of your driveway for people to take. Remember to follow current guidelines for social distancing and staying at home.

CREATE A VIDEO ACTIVITY FOR CLOVERBUD 4-H MEMBERS



Cloverbud members do activities at 4-H Club meetings. With clubs not meeting in person, our Cloverbuds may need extra support. Create videos with age-appropriate activities for Cloverbuds. You can find activities at <https://ohio4h.org/volunteers/cloverbud-leaders/click-it-print-it-do-it-activity-pages>.

References

Ideas to Act for the Common Good During Coronavirus Crisis. (2020). Retrieved from Youth Service America: <https://ysa.org/covid/>
Jucinto, G. S. (2020). *The Girl Scout Guide to Helping Others During the COVID-19 Pandemic.* Retrieved from Girl Scouts of San Jucinto: <https://www.gssjc.org/content/dam/gssjc/documents/our-council/covid-19/GirlScoutServiceIdeasforCOVID19.pdf>

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