



# Citizenship Project



Make a difference. Discover the needs of your local community and beyond! Help others! Get into Action! Citizenship is the opportunity, right, and responsibility to contribute to shaping the world around you and provide service to others. In the Citizenship Project you can explore your relationships with others: family, peers, state, nation, and world. The project helps you get involved and be an active, responsible citizen. Investigate current issues in your community, state, country and world. Take action to help others.

## Starting Out *Beginner*

- Recite the 4-H pledge and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Learn about each of the club officer positions.
- Learn the history of your town or city.
- Participate with your club in a service project.

## Learning More *Intermediate*

- Trace your family ancestry back to your great grandparents.
- Help plan a service project for your club.
- Interview your principal and find out what you and your 4-H club can do to improve the school grounds.
- Help with a safety program (swimming, biking, food, etc.).

## Expanding Horizons *Advanced*

- Teach others in your club about your local city or county government.
- Develop and carry out a service-learning project.
- Study other cultures through exchange experiences.
- Tour the state capitol and visit your legislator.

## Inspire Kids to Do

### Explore

#### **"I might like to do this."**

Youth who explore a variety of interests before high school, through experiences like 4-H camps and educational events, can develop early interest in a career path and improve their academic performance.

### Learn

#### **"I can do this."**

4-H project-based learning, guided by adult volunteers, improves youth understanding of skills and concepts, as well as their ability to problem-solve and collaborate.

### Practice

#### **"I'm interested in this."**

Youth who have participated in sustained hands-on learning and engaged with professional mentors and volunteers before entering high school are more likely to explore studies and potential career paths.

### Experience

#### **"I will be this."**

Real-world application is key — 91% of Kansas 4-H members have a plan for reaching their goals. Youth that have been active participants in hands-on learning, combined with strong decision-making skills, are more able to effectively navigate life.

## Citizenship Project

### Expand Your Experiences!

#### Healthy Living

- Coordinate a walk-a-thon to raise money for a health-related non-profit.
- Help a food pantry develop simple recipes for events using available food.
- Organize a history walk in your community.
- Educate your community on healthy foods needed at your local food pantry.

#### Science and Agriculture

- Present a science demonstration at the local elementary school.
- Develop a project to label storm drains and protect waterways.
- Deliver demonstrations on energy conservation or recycling at your school.
- Design, build, and plant a community garden.

#### Community Vitality

- Plan an activity for your club with information about the Citizenship project.
- Organize a texting and driving safety program at your high school.
- Connect with a homeless shelter and collaborate to collect and recycle clothes.
- Present information about your club's service project at a unit-wide event.

#### Communication and the Arts

- Participate in local Legislative Day activities.
- Lead a listening activity to help the group listen to diverse viewpoints.
- Create and give a presentation about your experience at Citizenship in Action or Citizenship Washington Focus.
- Plan a special "Grandparents Day" and record stories of their school days.

## Career Development

- Explore local issues by visiting city and county commission meetings.
- Research international careers and invite a speaker to share how one prepares for that career.
- Apply to be a page in the State Legislature, or attend Citizenship in Action (CIA).
- Interested in a college education in the area of political science, sociology, public service administration in agriculture, community and regional planning, community and public health? Schedule a visit with K-State University to explore those majors. [www.k-state.edu](http://www.k-state.edu)

## Local Contact Information

| Resources and Events  | Curriculum and Resources   | 4-H Record Keeping  | Project Exhibit Ideas   |
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| <p>Participating in educational events and learning opportunities will expand your knowledge and skills in the project area. Contact your local K-State Research and Extension office for local opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Citizenship in Action (CIA)</li><li>• Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF)</li><li>• Service-Learning Helper's Guide</li><li>• WeConnect Facilitator Guide</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Adventures (ages 12-14)</li><li>• Service Learning - Agents of Change (ages 12-14)</li><li>• Service Learning - Raise Your Voice (ages 15+)</li></ul> | <p>Learning to keep accurate records is a life skill. The following forms can help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Setting 4-H Project Goals (4H1100)</li><li>• Kansas 4-H Record Keeping</li><li>• Kansas Award Application</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a poster about the special things in your community.</li><li>• Create a video about your community and what visitors should know about it.</li><li>• Video your group at a service project and interview members about what they did and what it meant to them.</li><li>• Create a notebook about the things you learned on Citizenship In Action (CIA) and how it impacted you.</li></ul> |

