



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Discover what is important to you and to other people, set goals, take action and build a stronger community. Through this project, youth become active citizens, investigating a public issue, learning about the roles of governing officials, and carrying out a plan to solve a problem.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN LEARN...

STARTING OUT

- ✿ Find out about active citizenship
- ✿ Create ground rules for your group or project area
- ✿ Learn different ways you can make decisions
- ✿ Understand the difference between public and private issues
- ✿ Look at the issues that face your community
- ✿ Create a community map showing available resources

LEARNING MORE

- ✿ Explore your interests
- ✿ Write out your goals and pick a project in your community you might like to help or change
- ✿ Write a mission statement
- ✿ Create an action plan

GOING FURTHER

- ✿ Put an action plan into motion
- ✿ Record and evaluate the work you are doing
- ✿ Celebrate your accomplishments
- ✿ Share your story
- ✿ Plan for the future

RESOURCES

- ✿ <http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-citizenship.aspx>
- ✿ *Community Pride Project Guide* (uwyo.edu/4-h)

- ✿ *Citizenship Adventure Kit* (08153)
- ✿ *Citizenship Guide's Handbook* (08154)

TAKE IT FURTHER!

- ✿ Investigate the departments in your county government and find out what they do
- ✿ Interview someone from your local Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Agency to learn about the goals for your community
- ✿ Get to know the other people in your club and what they like to do for fun
- ✿ Interview a neighbor and identify your similarities and differences
- ✿ Create and carry-out a plan to help someone outside your family
- ✿ Discover the history of your school or community
- ✿ Tour city or state's hall, courthouse or capitol
- ✿ Apply to be a page in the State Legislature, attend National 4-H Conference or attend National 4-H Congress
- ✿ Attend Citizenship Washington Focus or Leadership Washington Focus
- ✿ Contact your county Extension office to participate in 4-H County Council or county committees
- ✿ Volunteer for a local, county, or state political campaign for a candidate you support
- ✿ Interview a county official about his/her roles and responsibilities
- ✿ Job shadow a state legislator and explore careers that interest you
- ✿ Observe a community board meeting
- ✿ Serve on a local board (fair, hospital, fire, etc.)

ENHANCE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Give a presentation on the history of your school or town

Make an appointment with your state legislator and share your thoughts on an issue

Read newspapers or news magazines on a regular basis

Research a community issue and share your ideas with an appropriate board or governing body

Give a presentation on the importance of citizenship and community involvement

Give a presentation on your activities and involvement with citizenship

GET INVOLVED IN CITIZENSHIP AND SERVICE

Pick up trash at the local park

Volunteer to be a tutor or a mentor in your school

Complete a community service project that includes other project areas

Develop a citizenship project that will help meet the needs of your community

Present information about your club's service project at a countywide event

Plan a special "Grandparents Day" and record stories of their school days

LEARN ABOUT LEADERSHIP

Organize friends to clean-up a neighborhood park

Ask your local nursing home residents how they would like to celebrate the next holiday and involve others to carry-out the plan

Get approval and then create and conduct a survey for students on a school issue; then share the results with the administration

Serve as a Youth Delegate to either your state Democratic or Republican Party Convention

EXHIBIT IDEAS

- ✿ Create a poster about the best things in your community
- ✿ Create a video of your community and what visitors should know about it
- ✿ Create a "Welcome to our School" kit to be given to new families
- ✿ Map resources for youth and families in your community
- ✿ Create a notebook explaining the Bill of Rights and examples in your everyday life
- ✿ Give a presentation about the Checks and Balances of the three Branches of Government and how they're important to you
- ✿ Report your exploration of an issue and define how each branch of government plays a role in its creation, interpretation and carry-out
- ✿ Video your group at a service project and interview members about what they did and what it meant to them
- ✿ Research candidates for the next Governor election and put a notebook together sharing their stance on different issues
- ✿ Create a notebook about the things you learned on a national 4-H trip and how they impacted you
- ✿ Create a visual display of how a bill becomes a law
- ✿ Create a visual representation about the different branches of government and how they work together
- ✿ Collect samples of club by-laws and constitutions; compare and contrast them



TAKE IT FURTHER!