

COMMUNITY P•R•I•D•E PROGRAM GUIDE

The 4-H Community Citizenship
Project for Individuals
and Groups Who Care



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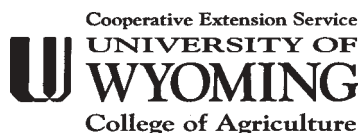
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A Note to Parents and Leaders

Dear Parents and Leaders,

4-H is an educational program designed to help young people grow and mature into responsible adults. The 4-H Community Pride project is especially well-suited to meet this goal. We encourage you to review this project manual with your 4-H members and help them work through their projects.

The community development process can be both rewarding and frustrating, so we offer the following suggestions to help you assist members.

- This project usually involves a group of people who work to complete a specific goal; therefore, this guide is written for group activities.
- Help members select an appropriate project for their time and abilities.
- Young members may start with community service projects and gradually move into community improvement projects as they gain experience and confidence.
- Members who attempt “community change” projects need to understand change takes time, rewards often are delayed, and many frustrations will occur along the way.
- While successfully completing a specific project is important, involvement with the community is often the most rewarding aspect of the Community Pride project. Assure members that participation is an important part of this project.
- Projects may vary according to the age and interest of the participating members.
- Young people never outgrow this project. Encourage 4-Hers to take on increasingly difficult or varied projects from year to year.

Good luck to you and your 4-H members as together you strive to improve the quality of life in Wyoming's communities.

Community Pride Project Guide

4-H Community Pride is an educational project aimed at developing good citizens who understand how community members can solve problems and provide services for a community.

These projects are carried out by individuals or groups with the counsel of parents and leaders.

The Community Pride project makes an excellent companion project for many of 4-H's traditional projects such as citizenship, leadership, health, recreation, safety, wildlife, photography, woodworking, sewing, and others.

The Primary Goals of the 4-H Community Pride project are to help members:

1. Become aware of how a community functions
2. Identify and respond to community problems
3. Participate with adults to improve the quality of community life
4. Develop personal leadership skills necessary to be good citizens and functional members of the community
5. Use appropriate public and private resources for community improvement

How to Get Started

Community Pride—that's what happens when your club, neighborhood, community groups, and local government work together to build your community into the kind of place you want it to be.

The parks, playgrounds, churches, schools, recreational centers, and hospitals that serve a community don't just appear out of nowhere. Leaders interested in their communities are needed to help create these facilities. In a democracy, such voluntary leadership helps make and keep us strong.

When you take a small step in community pride, you are on the road to becoming a community leader.

Once you are enrolled in the 4-H Community Pride project, you are ready to begin.

- Find out about your community.
- Make a list of possible projects.
- Choose a project.
- Plan for group or individual action to meet community needs.
- Involve other community leaders.
- Fill out a grant request form if needed.
- Carry out your part of the plan.
- Report on progress through newspaper articles, radio advertising and talk shows, meetings, and photographs.
- Complete your 4-H Community Pride project record or grant report.
- Prepare an individual or group fair exhibit.

Steps in Your Community Pride Project

Find Out about Your Community

To have a good Community Pride project, start with facts. Decide which community members to involve in the project, and then learn all you can about your community.

Your community might be your neighborhood, township, subdivision, or entire county. Once you have defined your community, choose your project by carefully reviewing the facts about that community.

At one of your first meetings, you should:

- Decide if you know all you need to know about community needs
- Make a decision about how you will gather facts about the community
- Find out the feelings of parents and interested groups
- Decide who will work on getting the answers to certain questions and what groups or officials they will speak to for these answers
- Use the Ideas section at the end of this guide to help you choose questions or a project

At a later meeting, you should:

- Summarize the answers to questions about your community
- Make a map showing needs in each area of the community
- Meet with groups involved to find out where to start, and identify what help each group can give
- Decide which projects are most needed and which jobs your club can do best

Choose a Project

At this meeting, you should:

- Discuss problems and opportunities you have found in your community
- Decide what your group or other groups

can do about these problems and opportunities

- Find out how many members are interested in each project
- Decide which projects your group will do this year

Your Plan of Action

How to Do It

Use brainstorming and buzz groups when you make group decisions concerning community size and needs, project selection and process, and each member's task. This way, every member of the group is involved with decisions.

Brainstorming

Sit in a circle face to face. The discussion leader calls on each member to give his or her idea of what the community needs. This process requires giving a quick answer. If a member doesn't have an idea quickly, he or she passes. Then the next person offers an idea.



Someone should write ideas on a blackboard or on big sheets of paper. Go around the circle two or three times—as long as ideas keep coming. The goal of brainstorming is to gather ideas, not evaluate the merit of any idea.

This example talks about choosing a problem to solve, you can use these same steps for all group decisions.

Buzz Groups

Divide into groups of about five to discuss the ideas generated. If many ideas need to be discussed, each group can work on only part of the list. Pick a chairman and a recorder. Then, set a time limit for the discussion (15 to 20 minutes).

Share

Each group should record and report ideas presented.

Arrive at a Group Agreement

After the discussion leader gathers all the ideas, the group should choose the problem it most wants to solve.

Involve Other Community Leaders

One of the goals of the 4-H Community Pride project is for young people and adults to work together.

- Look for people in your community who have the interest, training, or experience to help with your project.
- Decide what other organizations or groups might be interested in your project.
- Some projects may require the approval and support of other community leaders and organizations.

- Check with county commissioners, the city council, UW CES educators, the local chamber of commerce, and other groups for ideas and help.

Design a Plan of Action

The best way to finish a project is to make a detailed plan, including:

- What is to be done
- Who is going to do it
- How it is to be done
- What facilities, equipment, or materials are needed and available
- When it is to be finished

Some or all of these decisions may be made by using brainstorming and buzz groups. How you are going to finish the job depends upon the kind and size of your Community Pride project and the number and ages of members in your group.

The following details of the plan might be carried out by committees:

- The planning committee decides what needs to be done, sets up work schedules, and contacts other groups.
- The supply committee decides what equipment and materials are needed, and arranges to borrow or purchase necessary items.
- The publicity committee informs the community about the project using newspaper, radio, and meetings. A publicity photograph is a good idea.

Fill Out a Grant Request

Many Community Pride projects need funds to get them started. Often, the 4-H group must show the community it is seri-

ous about the project. If seed money is needed, start a project, fill out a grant request form, and submit it to the State 4-H Office. Forms are available at your local county Extension office.

Carry Out the Plan

- Be sure everyone is involved.
- Assign a person to each task. Never assume some unnamed person will take care of details.
- Make everyone feel that his or her part is important to the total effort.
- Once the plan is made, start as soon as possible while enthusiasm is high.

Report on Progress

- Keep the community informed about your project's progress.
- Use all available media for communications—radio, newspapers, meetings, newsletters, and posters.
- Keep photographs of your project for newspaper stories, 4-H records, and grant reports.
- Give credit to those people or organizations who help with the project; it will make them more willing to help the next time you plan a project.
- Be sure to complete your individual 4-H Community Pride project record.
- Prepare an individual or group exhibit for the fair. Doing this also helps promote future community interest in the 4-H Community Pride project.

Possible Fair Exhibits

Check your county fair premium book for specific entry requirements.

Individual exhibits may include:

- A picture story of project involvement
- A scrapbook of project activities
- A poster explaining community pride steps
- Other displays or exhibits

Group exhibits may include:

- A notebook of a group Community Pride project, including action taken, budget, and pictures or newspaper clippings about the project
- A slide program about the project
- Any promotional materials used to publicize the project to the community
- Other displays or exhibits

Community Pride Sample Club Calendar

October

Think and talk about your community. How do you like it?

November

Gather all the facts you can about your community. Each member should choose a certain part of community life to study.

December

Based on facts, decide what your community needs and what should be addressed first.

January

Select projects on which you want to work. Discuss resources you can use to help meet these needs.

February

Discuss specific plans for projects to meet your community needs.

March

Seek funds for your project. Find local donors. Apply for a Community Pride grant.

April, May, and June

Conduct a project activity and group meetings. Individuals may work with combined club and community groups.

July

Conduct a project activity. Use news stories, radio, TV, and meetings to tell about the project's results.

August

Report the project's outcome by offering community tours. Plan new projects.

September

Complete the Community Pride project record or grant report forms. Organize next year's project.

Ideas for Community Pride Activities

Youth

Does your community offer the following services?

An employment agency for youth

A youth guidance clinic

Projects for the community involving both young people and adults

Community-wide youth council

Well-planned, year-round recreation programs for young people

Specific programs for youth groups of all ages

Provisions for young people with special needs

Affordable recreational facilities

Project Ideas

Organize a club to do specific community projects (highway clean-up, park improvement, and painting a community building).

Develop multi-purpose youth centers.

Organize youth councils to help with local youth problems and cooperate with adult groups to develop solutions.

Develop youth forums to discuss current problems and develop action programs.

Help the community become interested in offering dances, movies, and parties for teenagers.

Resources You Can Use

Chairmen of youth committees in service clubs

Leaders of youth groups (4-H, Campfire Girls, Scouts)

University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension educators

Coaches and teachers

Juvenile officers and court judges

Citizenship

Does your community have a planning agency?

Are public affairs forums offered?

Does your community offer “Get out and vote” campaigns?

Are community affairs publicized?

Is there community support for public officials?

Are leader training sessions on government or citizenship offered?

Does the community recognize good officials?

Project Ideas

Study city, county, state, and national departments of government.

Visit city council and county commissioners’ meetings.

Visit city and county departments, and invite department heads to talk to your club.

Help people get to the polls during elections.

Invite political candidates to speak at your club meetings.

Invite foreign-born young people to your club, so they can discuss diversity issues.

Visit school board meetings and learn more about school problems.

Develop plans for a mock political campaign and election in your neighborhood or community.

Resources You Can Use

City and county officials

City and county department heads

Social science teachers

Chairmen of citizenship committees in service clubs

Police officers

Recreation

Does your community have the following facilities?

A clean public park with safe play equipment and a picnic area

A swimming pool or beach

Public athletic fields

Football

Baseball

Softball

Soccer

Tennis

Track

Roller blading

Skate boarding

Basketball

Children’s summer and day camps

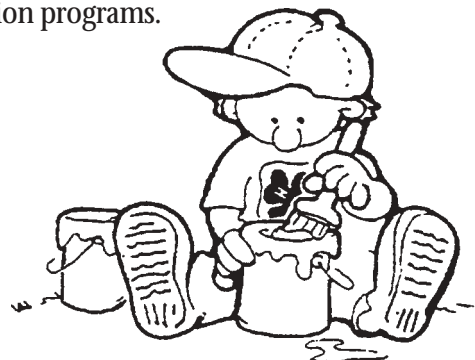
Project Ideas

Help develop a summer playground program.

Help promote community parties involving dancing, handicrafts, games, and music.

Help secure, plan, operate, and develop a community camp.

Help train leaders to supervise and lead recreation programs.



Resources You Can Use

State parks and recreation commissions
Local forest supervisors and rangers (state and national)
Service clubs
High school coaches
County and city recreation supervisors

Health

Does your community have the following resources?

- Ample hospital facilities
- School nurses
- An adequate garbage disposal system
- Enough doctors (1 for every 800 people)
- Healthy water and food supplies
- An ambulance service
- School and community health clinics
- Preventive health education programs
- Community health fairs

Project Ideas

Help publicize CPR training programs.
Help determine the need for programs for the handicapped.
Encourage and tell about good nutrition and balanced diets.
Help clean up your city dumps.
Promote water supply testing.
Help hold sight and hearing clinics.
Cooperate in and help establish school dental programs.

Help with a community health fair.

Resources You Can Use

County health officers
State Department of Health
Public health nurses
Trained registered nurses
The county medical society
Local doctors
Teachers
Athletic coaches
Veterinarians

Beautification

Do your community parks and playgrounds have the following assets?

- Well-landscaped areas
- Benches throughout the park
- Clean public restrooms

Does your community have the following shortcomings?

- Unkept homes and yards
- Unattractive surroundings
- Junk piles
- Unightly garbage dumps
- Poorly lit streets
- Streets and sidewalks full of holes
- Poorly marked streets
- Unattractive school grounds

Project Ideas

Plant flowers, shrubs, and trees in yards and parks.

Promote roadside improvements and beautification.

Place trash containers at strategic locations.

Help build and maintain community parks.

Help promote tree planting programs.

Build and place community and individual direction signs.

Resources You Can Use

Local, county, and state parks and recreation commissions

Garden club members

Local foresters

University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service educators

Master gardeners

Safety

Does your community have the following safety resources?

Enough stop lights and traffic control signals

Driving classes, and safety contests

Safe places for people to walk, jog, and ride bicycles

Project Ideas

Study traffic hazards and promote their elimination.

Promote driving courses in your community.

Improve signs, markings, and signals.

Conduct a bicycle and pedestrian safety campaign.

Promote crime prevention programs.

Resources You Can Use

Local law enforcement agencies

Service clubs

City officials



