



Wyoming 4-H

Generosity

GENEROSITY is the willingness to give and share of one's time and/or resources. GENEROSITY is done without an expectation that the gift or act will be returned. GENEROSITY in the 4-H program can take many different forms. GENEROSITY is the act of giving, serving, or helping. We feel good about ourselves when we do something to make the lives of others easier. There are different types of giving; we can give of our time, talents, or give financially.

In 4-H we promote generosity through service-learning. Service-learning includes helping others and learning. The intent is that the 4-H members who are doing the service will benefit along with the person they are serving. Service-learning provides youth with the opportunity to feel that their lives have meaning and purpose. It is a chance for youth to connect with their communities and learn how to give back to others. Service is more than a product; it is a process that provides developmental opportunities for 4-H members.

Generosity is the opportunity to value and practice service to others.

What does this mean?

- Young people need to feel their lives have meaning and purpose.
- Generosity or service includes the development of values like compassion, tolerance, the ability to consider others' perspectives, and problem-solving skills.
- Generosity in the form of service-learning is teaching and learning strategies that involve meaningful community service with time to reflect.

- Youth are learning what it means to be a good citizen and how being a good citizen can strengthen a community.

What does this look like in a 4-H experience?

- Youth are excited about serving others and helping their community.
- Adults help youth to identify community needs and then youth design solutions to help meet those needs.
- Youth are involved in all stages of the service project. Youth help to plan, design, implement, manage, and evaluate the service. It is not planned by the adults for the youth to participate in.
- After the activity youth reflect on the successes, setbacks, growth, and pride of the service.
- The service can be an opportunity for youth to serve as teachers of others. This could be youth teaching adults, their peers, and younger youth.
- The experiences of service are meaningful, not just doing something because you are looking for something to do.

As a 4-H leader are you helping or hindering generosity in the 4-H experience? Check where you are by referencing the Generosity checklist. The checklist will give you ideas on ways to make sure generosity is happening in 4-H projects, meetings, and activities that you are helping lead.