

Penn State **Extension**

2014 Northeast Regional Volunteer Forum

November 22, 2014

PA 4-H Stepping Stones to CITIZENSHIP Level One

Goals and Objectives: _____

Citizenship *Outburst!*

- Round One: Give each group 1 minute to shout out and list on board what citizenship is. Assign one point for each term or phrase appearing on the Citizenship Awareness Checklist in the Appendix. Give a bonus point for each unique term or phrase.
- Round Two: Give each group 1 minute to give reasons why your 4-H club should get involved with citizenship, leadership, and service activities. Assign one point for each term or phrase included in the 50 Reasons to Get Involved in the Appendix.

Get to Know Your State

- State flower: _____
- State animal: _____
- State bird: _____
- State tree: _____
- State fish: _____
- State insect: _____
- State dog: _____
- State beverage: _____

Get to Know Your County

Identify people, places, things, and events that make your county special. This can be done as a club or for all of the counties in your state. Create a quiz to use at leader trainings or as a special challenge during Achievement Night.

Cultural Awareness

What people groups live in your community? In what ways do they celebrate their cultural heritage?

Share

What similarities and differences are there among communities? How can you increase your club members' cultural awareness? _____

Taking Steps to Service Learning

Practice, using the scenario described below:

You took out-of-town guests to your neighborhood park recently. Your guests commented on the amount of trash near the picnic area. You noticed that there are no trash cans.



1. _____

2. _____

3. *Plan for Action*

a. What do you need to know? _____

b. What permissions might you need? _____

c. What are your resources? _____

d. What could your club do? _____

4. _____

5. _____

Public Speaking – Practice makes the Best Better!

From the pictures on the screen, you will have one minute to plan a speech about an item and another minute to present a speech. Are you willing to give it a try? _____

Appendix

Citizenship Awareness Check List

What does **citizenship** mean to you? Citizenship means different things to different people. Use a poster or white board to make a list of what *you* think citizenship means. Use the list below to help you get started or to fill in your definition. How you define citizenship can be used as a stepping stone to generate ideas and suggestions to get involved in a citizenship project.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Community involvement | Leadership |
| Voting | Being honest |
| Knowing about local government | Keeping property neat |
| Becoming involved in community service | Knowing local issues |
| Decision making | Visiting the capital |
| Abiding by the law | Cooperating |
| Being a good neighbor | Helping the handicapped |
| Civil rights | Visiting prisoners |
| Restoring a cemetery | Taking a stand on political issues |
| Reporting vandalism | Knowing the election process |
| Belonging to a civic group | Attending town meetings |
| Helping a sick friend | Doing something for others |
| Reporting bullying | Knowing local history |
| Telling a friend to stop drinking | Saying no to harmful behaviors |
| Joining a 4-H club | |

Citizenship is:

My ideas: _____

My club's definition:



50 Reasons to Get Involved with Citizenship, Leadership & Service Activities:¹

Activity: Divide your group into teams. How many of these reasons can your club members guess in 2 minutes? Give one point for each reason checked off the list. You might want to give bonus points for additional reasons!

1. Meeting new friends
2. Having FUN
3. Making a difference for your community
4. For your children's children
5. Caring about your world
6. Learning new things
7. Sharing your knowledge
8. For a better tomorrow
9. Educating others
10. To be a good citizen
11. Believing in people
12. Making a change
13. Getting your voice heard
14. Warm, fuzzy feelings
15. To be a good role model
16. Helping
17. Connecting with others
18. Good for your resume
19. To keep a positive outlook
20. For your friends
21. Hope
22. Giving back
23. Kindness
24. For your neighbors
25. Get recognition
26. Empowering yourself
27. Building a better future
28. To be responsible
29. Bringing together your community
30. Showing a good example
31. A good habit
32. Something to do with your friends
33. Putting your knowledge to work
34. Gaining experience
35. It's neat!
36. Working with others
37. Taking on a challenge
38. Smiles
39. Achievement
40. Gaining a new perspective
41. To form a more perfect union
42. Laughs
43. Putting your beliefs into action
44. Giving to those in need
45. Being powerful
46. Hugs
47. Representing those without a voice
48. Nurturing yourself
49. Sharing compassion
50. Spreading peace



¹ From a PYD bookmark

Community Service²

1. Identify the Problem

Even the nicest towns aren't perfect. What things in your community would you like to change or improve? Maybe your area needs less trash, less wasted energy, and less gossip; but more activities, law enforcement, and jobs. What can YOU and your 4-H club do to improve things?

2. Gather Information

What caused or is causing the situation? Who is affected by the problem? Who could you talk to about the problem? Would it help to contact county government about this problem?

For Example:

You took out-of-town guests to your neighborhood park recently. Your guests commented on the amount of trash near the picnic area. You noticed that there were no trash cans. Who should you contact about this? What can your club do to help the situation?

3. Plan for Action

Your club contacted the park manager at the borough office, who told you that the trash cans were missing. There was no money in the budget to buy new ones. You decide to hold a fundraiser to purchase new trash cans. What do you need to know? What permissions do you need? What are your resources (human, financial, physical, time). Each person in your club needs to accept a task and be given a deadline for completion.

4. Evaluation

Your club raised enough money for 4 trash cans, which the borough purchased. They allowed you to paint the name of your club on the side. Now you need to discuss your action. Was the project finished on time? Did everyone do his/her job? Did people in the community know about the project? How did they feel about it? Did you remember to thank the appropriate people?

5. Looking Forward

What is another project you would like to do? How can you use what you learned from this project to help you make the best better?

Community Pledge
I promise to contribute my time and effort to learning about my community; to remember to look for the good in all people; and to do what I can to help make my community a better place in which to live.

² From "Getting to Know Your Community, Project 1 Member Guide, the Pennsylvania State University, n.d.

Essential Element – Service with Citizenship

Opportunity to Value and Practice Service for Others

What is Service-Learning? Service-learning allows you to learn something new and reflect on what you learn and discover as you provide service to your community.

Example of community service: If you clean up trash and pollutants from a streambed, you are providing a service to the community by cleaning up the stream.

Example of service-learning: When you analyze what you found within the streambed and the possible sources of pollution, you can (1) share the results with residents and public officials, and (2) offer suggestions for reducing pollution. You are engaged in a community clean-up project but are also learning about pollution sources and water quality. You practice communication skills when sharing what you learned with the community and public officials.

Planning for Service-Learning

Start to think about doing a service-learning activity. After you complete your service-learning activity, answer the following questions about your project:

1. How did you decide what to do? _____
2. Describe your project. _____
3. What knowledge and skills did you gain? _____
4. What other people were involved? (parents, other 4-H'ers, agencies, groups) _____
5. What future plans do you have relating to this project? _____

For more information about this project, contact Ann Dunkerton, akd11@psu.edu, chair of the Citizenship Committee of the Pennsylvania 4-H Positive Youth Development Team

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