



Service-Learning Plan It Out Packet

Created by: The 2021-22 Minnesota 4-H State Ambassadors

Adapted from resources from the National Youth Leadership Council & generationOn

Service work is an extremely important part of the 4-H program as well as for our communities! Though service work benefits the people being served, it also benefits the people who help others. Through service work, youth can gain community service hours and learn new things all while making a lasting impact on their community!

What is Service?

Service is the act of helping others in need. Community service focuses on helping those in your area and those who are around you. There are actually four main types of service.

- **Direct Service:** This is when you work directly with the people who will benefit from the acts of service.

Examples include: going to a senior center, tutoring kids, serving food and more!

- **Indirect Service:** This is when you provide an act of service without working directly with those that will benefit.

Examples include: planting a garden, doing food drives, fundraising and more!

- **Advocacy:** This is when you inform the community about the needs and ways to make a difference.

Examples include: writing letters to public officials, holding informational sessions, creating posters and more!

- **Research:** This is when you gather information to benefit a community or public interest.

Examples include: foodshed mapping, testing soil quality, conducting surveys and more!



How to Plan a Service Project: IPARDE

IPARDE (Investigation, Preparation, Action, Reflection, Demonstration, and Evaluation) is a process you can use to plan your service-learning activities. Each step of IPARDE is important to develop a high-quality project and think about its impact.

Step 1: Pre-project: Investigation

- **What is preventing people in your community from being food secure?** *(see examples on next pages)* Think about what needs you've heard or read about in your community. Ask questions of others who might have additional perspectives. Learn what is being done to address the issue.

Step 2: Pre-project: Preparation

- **How can you address this issue? Will you partner with an organization/organizations?**
Consider who else will help you and what skills and abilities you have together. Talk with organizations in your community about what they need and determine if you can help meet that need. Identify goals to work towards. Decide if you will do a direct, indirect, research, or advocacy project.
- **How will you collect information about your impact?**
Make a plan to collect the data in Step 4 below!

Step 3: Action

- **How will you carry it out?**
Think about all the steps you need to do and develop a timeline. Who, what, when, where, why, and how will all of these steps happen, then make it happen!

Step 4: Post project: Reflection & evaluation

- What is the impact of our actions? What did we learn? Did we meet our goals? What would work better next time?

Be sure to collect and share about the following at <https://z.umn.edu/4-HService2022>

- If you did a collection drive - how many/how many pounds of items did you collect?
- What organization(s) did you partner with, if any?
- How many volunteers were involved?
 - Include names when possible!
- What statistics (if any) are important to your project?
 - How many people were impacted, how many people were fed, etc...
- Do you have any photos or other information to share?

Step 5: Post project: Demonstration

- How will we show others what is done?

Think about sharing details with the organization you partnered with, with others who would care or should care about it, and/or share within your 4-H program or at the county fair.

Step 6: Evaluate & Sustain

- What difference did this make? What else needs to be done?

Think about what other steps need to be done to address the issue and who could do them. Think about what you want to do differently next time.

Now Let's Jump Into Some Service Projects

The 20AMC State Ambassador team is asking all of Minnesota 4-H to focus on one of the most pressing issues facing our state this year: **food Insecurity**. Here are some ideas of projects that the State Ambassadors have been involved in that help combat food insecurity. Feel free to do one of these or your own.



Food Insecurity

In Minnesota, 1 in 12 people struggle with hunger, and 35% of those people are children (Minnesota Department of Health, 2020). Thankfully, there are many ways to help provide food for others. Check out these resources from the University of Minnesota Extension: <https://extension.umn.edu/nutrition-and-healthy-eating/building-better-food-shelves>

Ways You Can Help:



The Backpack Program

Groups of students help their school fill backpacks with food to send home with kids who might not have food to eat over the weekend.



Meals On Wheels

Community members come together to put together and deliver meals to people in their community who may not be able to make hot and nutritious meals on their own.



Reducing Food Waste

Schools use their leftover food to feed hungry people in their communities while simultaneously cutting down on food waste.



Food Drives

Youth and adults come together to produce, collect, or distribute food to families in need in their communities.

Tell us about your projects here: <https://z.umn.edu/4H-YouthServiceReporting>

Notes and Ideas:

Looking for an electronic version of this document? Go here:
<https://z.umn.edu/serviceplanpacket> or use the QR Code



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