



# West Virginia 4-H Clubs Monthly Program Guide

## Appendix – Community Service Activities

### Leadership

- Plant flowers around a community center or school.
- Adopt grandparents through nursing homes.

### Camping

4-H clubs are encouraged to have member and family activities that improve the quality of life in their community. Think about these ideas if you need a new community project!

1. To honor the Native Americans of West Virginia, find a street, bridge, or road that is unnamed and organize a campaign to have it named. You may need to make phone calls, write letters, or have a rally. Contact the local Division of Highways or city officials. When you have success, plan a celebration day for the sign unveiling.
2. Find out what shrubs, trees, or flowers the 4-H camp would want your 4-H club to plant. Or could your 4-H club “adopt” a building or area at the camp for cleaning, painting, or sprucing up? Be sure to contact the proper camp authorities before you start any projects.
3. All 4-H camps and even the WVU Jackson’s Mill State 4-H Camp could use money. Put them on your annual club donation list.
4. Was there a significant Native American historical event or location in your community or county? Is it properly marked or identified? The research to locate such a site can be fun and interesting. A campaign to commemorate the site would be a wonderful 4-H club project!

### Communication

1. Volunteer to read to a child.
2. Teach another person how to read.
3. Collect old newspapers and magazines and take them to the local hospital or other areas that might use them.
4. Do a book drive for the local library.
5. Pull all the information on the national “Are You Into It?” campaign and localize it to your club/county.
6. Become a penpal to someone. The Mali Penpal project might be a possibility.

### Health and Fitness

What a fun way to help out in your community and have a great time while you are serving! Clubs can help local communities develop bike trails that can be recreational for community residents as well as attractive to tourists who like to bike. Remember, bike trails can serve as walking trails as well. Perhaps your community already has several trails, but needs someone to maintain them. This would be a wonderful project for a 4-H club.

Sponsor a bike rodeo for smaller children in the community. Have local law enforcement official explain helmet laws. Sometimes local businesses will donate helmets for publicity events like this.

## 4-H History and Trivia

As a special event, your club could hold a 4-H Council Circle before your 4-H camp to familiarize your new members about 4-H camp and boost their excitement. Invite all 4-H parents and make this a parent/family event.

A committee of the club reporter and others could write a special news article about your 4-H club and its history. This would be good promotion of 4-H in your community.

Make a club contribution to the West Virginia IFYE Program Fund.

## Links to WVU

One thing every member of a 4-H club has in common is schooling. It may be their elementary, middle, high school, or homeschool, but all of them attend school. Talk with the principal of the school to see if there are things that your 4-H club could do to be of help to the school. It might mean planting trees, flowers, or shrubs; painting playground equipment; cleaning up the grounds; or helping with a school fundraiser such as a carnival or field day. The key to a successful community service activity is to involve the members in deciding what the club will do. As a leader, you may need to help explore options, but the final decision should be theirs, so it becomes their project rather than yours.