Missouri 4-H
Community Service-Learning Census
2016-2017

Introduction

4-H clubs enjoy helping out their neighbors and strengthening their communities through service-learning! Adult club leaders support 4-H members in planning and doing meaningful work that meets a local need or opportunity, and accomplishes a learning objective set by youth. 4-H members reflect and think critically about the influence service has had on them and others.

As “4-H Grows True Leaders,” clubs provide service to their communities over time, yielding benefits of engaged youth and adults, leadership development, strong intergenerational ties, and locally met needs.

By the Numbers

During 2016-17, 4-H members and clubs across Missouri engaged in service to “better their best” and to enhance their communities:

- **292 clubs from 77 counties** reported community service-learning activities for 2016-17. These clubs reported more than *114,000 hours of service*, a contribution valued at nearly $2.5 million to Missouri communities (Independent Sector).

- The **average Missouri 4-H club engaged 85 youth and 32 adults in over 390 hours of service**, a “giving back” contribution valued at over $8,400 per club to their metro and non-metro communities.

- **Youth ages 8-13** made up the largest portion of 4-H volunteers serving their communities (43%), with adult volunteers (28%), teen 4-H members (19%), and Clover Kids ages 5-7 (10%) rounding out the base of participants in organized service projects.

- **Clubs reported** 7,745 club members and 2,669 adult leaders participating in **1,608 organized service activities**.

- *Reported hours include time clubs spent in conducting service projects,* but may not fully include time spent planning, preparing, and reflecting on service.

- With 750 clubs in 2016-17, Missouri 4-H members spent an estimated total of **292,000 hours in service-learning**, a contribution of $6.3 million back to communities.
Citizenship Skills

4-H asked club leaders about citizenship skills they observed 4-H members demonstrating through planning and conducting service-learning projects. The table below summarizes the percentage of respondents who observed and commented on specific skills in action:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Citizenship Skills</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive Relations</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working as a Team</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexibility</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valuing Differences</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decision Making</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Issues</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal Setting</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading Meetings</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Leaders</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The most commonly reported skill areas were “Developing positive relationships” (93%) and “Working together as a team” (93%).

The least frequently reported skill areas were “Leading meetings with parliamentary procedure” (44%) and “Interacting with local and/or state government leaders” (34%).

Other key skills 4-H youth gained included “Being flexible and adaptable” (85%), “Valuing and respecting differences” (73%), and “Identifying and discussing community issues” (71%).

Citizenship skills in action:

- “Through a pollinator project, members set a committee to determine the best plants for their area. They met with the city council to present their plan and obtain permission for the project. The members ordered the plants and developed a plan for planting, watering, and general care of the site.” (Lawson 4-H Club, Ray County)
- “By serving at events of other local organizations, members have the opportunity to speak to the public in a courteous manner, learn the value of teamwork in preparing, serving and cleaning up, and contribute to the efforts that support them and the 4-H program. (Merry Martins 4-H Club, Audrain County)
Community Assets

4-H asked club leaders which community assets are enhanced by youth planning and conducting service-learning projects. The table above summarizes the percentage of leaders who observed specific asset building across seven different categories.

The most commonly reported community assets built by service were Social Capital ("Helping others," 67%) and Cultural Capital ("Community spirit," 63%).

The least frequently reported community assets built by service were Political Capital ("Connecting with elected officials," 12%) and Built Capital ("Building improvements," 10%).

One noteworthy community asset 4-Hers were observed to build was Human Capital, characterized by 4-H members “Teaching others” (28%) through educational programs or awareness building.

Community asset building in action:

- The Pocahontas 4-H Club (Cape Girardeau County) held a park cleanup to beautify a local park in Pocahontas and make it more attractive to visitors and locals (Natural Capital).
- The Bear Creek Kidz 4-H Club (St. Francois County) planted a Liberty Tree at the Farmington VFW post (Built Capital, Natural Capital, Human Capital, Social Capital, Cultural Capital).
- The Eager Eagles 4-H Club (Moniteau County) held a breakfast to raise money for the Central Missouri Honor Flights Program (Human Capital, Social Capital, Political Capital).

Community Service Grants

Missouri 4-H Foundation

Sponsored by Crader Distributing and DuPont Pioneer

- Accepted year-round
- Offers grants of up to $1,000 to match funding for a 4-H community service project
- Projects are youth-driven, offer opportunities to serve, work, and develop skills, reflect on youth/community partnerships, geared to a skill level of youth participants, and demonstrate a return on investment in the community
- Successful project examples: lake improvements and waterfowl box construction, community vegetable gardens, day camps and events for special needs youth, recycling events, STEM day camps, landscaping projects, etc.

2017 4-H Recipients

- Cape Girardeau County, Chariton County, Dallas County, Daviess County, Gentry County, Lawrence County, Macon County, Monroe County, Oregon County, Randolph County, Shelby County, and Worth County

Grant Application and Report Forms available at:

http://4h.missouri.edu/foundation/community-service.aspx
Going Forward

Missouri 4-H club leaders and volunteers can build upon community service-learning activities with their clubs by:

- Ramping up service activities with higher leadership and civic responsibility for teens, ages 14-18
- Identifying service activities inclusive of Clover Kids
- Challenging 4-H members to look at their community with fresh eyes and choose service projects they are uniquely prepared to tackle as a group
- Guiding all 4-H members in planning and setting goals
- Support older 4-H members in leading service to learn project management and facilitation
- Guiding all 4-H members in reflecting on the meaning and value of service, the impact serving had on themselves, others, and their community, and new knowledge about the community and community issues

Missouri 4-H staff can support clubs and county groups with community service-learning by:

- Guiding 4-H youth and adult leaders in making connections between service and skills for college/career readiness
- Encouraging service that involves 4-Hers “teaching others”
- Guiding 4-H groups in thinking beyond quick-fix projects
- Supporting youth communication skill-building and project
- Promoting direct interaction between 4-Hers and city and county government officials
- Communicating to 4-H sponsors and stakeholders how clubs are bolstering community pride and spirit, and building stronger communities through service

To Learn More...

- [Missouri 4-H Community Service-Learning](#)
- [Missouri Youth Civic Leaders Summit](#)
- [How 4-H is Growing True Leaders](#)
- [How 4-H Youth Are Leading Positive Change in Rural America](#)

The Missouri 4-H Community Service-Learning Census is based on data from Form LG760 Youth Service to Communities, filled out annually by Missouri 4-H clubs. For more information, please contact Steve Henness, State 4-H Specialist, 4-H Center for Youth Development, [hennesss@missouri.edu](mailto:hennesss@missouri.edu).

Community Service Grants

**Missouri Dept. of Agriculture**

- Building Our American Communities (BOAC) grants
- $500 to 4-H groups due Dec. 1
- Projects benefit agricultural community or promote community development
- May include improvements to existing facilities, grounds, or buildings used by the community

**2017 4-H Recipients**

- Barton County, Cole County, Cooper County, Linn County, Perry County, and Warren County


**FCS Financial**

- Shaping Rural Missouri grants
- $500 to 4-H groups due April 1
- Projects must be tangible where outcome can be seen or touched

**2017 4-H Recipients**

- Andrew County, Atchison County, Audrain County, Barton County, Buchanan County, Carroll County, Chariton County, Clark County, Knox County, Lafayette County, Monroe County, Newton County, Putman County, Ray County, Shannon County, St. Charles County, and Vernon County

[https://www.myfcsfinancial.com/how-we-are-different/shaping-rural-missouri-grant/](https://www.myfcsfinancial.com/how-we-are-different/shaping-rural-missouri-grant/)