



UW-MADISON EXTENSION

Civic Engagement Project

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What is it All About?

Discover what is important to you and to other people, set goals, take action and build a stronger community. Through this project, youth become active citizens, investigating a public issue, learning about the roles of governing officials, and carrying out a plan to solve a problem.

Grow in Your Project

Starting Out

- Find out about active citizenship
- Create ground rules for your group or project area
- Learn different ways you can make decisions
- Understand the difference between public and private
- Look at the issues that face your community

Learning More

- Explore your interests
- Write out your goals and pick a project in your community you might like to help or change
- Write a mission statement
- Create an action plan

Going Further

- Put an action plan into motion
- Record and evaluate the work you are doing
- Celebrate your accomplishments
- Share your story
- Plan for the future

*Resources for All Three Levels**

- <http://www.4-hmall.org/Category/4-hcurriculum-citizenship.aspx>
- Citizenship Adventure Kit (08153)
- Citizenship Guide's Handbook (08154)
- Community Pride Project Guide (uwyo.edu/4-h)

Take Your Project Further!

- Investigate the departments in your county government and find out what they do
- Interview someone from your local Chamber of Commerce or Economic Development Agency to learn about the goals for your community
- Get to know the other people in your club and what they like to do for fun.
- Interview a neighbor and identify the similarities and differences between you
- Create and carry-out a plan to help someone outside your family
- Discover the history of your school or community
- Tour city or state's hall, Courthouse or capitol
- Apply to be a page in the State Legislature, attend National 4-H Conference or attend National 4-H Congress
- Attend Citizenship Washington Focus or Leadership Washington Focus
- Contact your county Extension office to participate in 4-H County Council or county committees
- Volunteer for a local, county, or state political campaign for a candidate you support
- Interview a county official about his/her roles and responsibilities

*Resources available at your local Extension office or shop4-H.org.

Applying Project Skills to Life

Enhance Your Communication Skills

- Give a presentation about the history of your school or town
- Make an appointment with your state legislator and share your thoughts on an issue
- Read newspapers or newsmagazines on a regular basis
- Research a community issue and share your ideas with appropriate board or governing body
- Give a presentation on the importance of citizenship and community involvement
- Prepare a demonstration or presentation on your activities and involvement with citizenship

Get Involved in Citizenship and Service

- Help pick up trash at the local park
- Volunteer to be a tutor or a mentor in your school
Complete a community service project that includes other project areas
- Adopt and maintain a local park or road in your community
- Develop a citizenship project that will help meet the needs of your community
- Present information about your club's service project at a countywide event.
- Plan a special "Grandparents Day" and record stories of their school days.

Learn about Leadership

- Organize friends to clean-up a neighborhood park
- Ask your local nursing home residents how they would like to celebrate the next holiday and involve others to carry-out the plan
- Get approval and then create and conduct a survey for students on a school issue; then share the results with the administration
- Serve as a Youth Delegate to either your state Democratic or Republican Party Convention

Showing What You've Learned

- Create a poster about the best things in your community
- Create a video about your community and what visitors should know about it
- Create a "Welcome to our School" kit to be given to new families
- Map the resources for youth and families in your community
- Create a notebook explaining the Bill of Rights and examples in your everyday life
- Give a presentation about the Checks and Balances of the 3 Branches of Government and how they're important to you
- Report your exploration of an issue and define how each branch of government plays a role in its creation, interpretation and carry-out
- Video your group at a service project and interview members about what they did and what it meant to them
- Research candidates for the next Governor election and put a notebook together sharing their stance on different issues
- Create a notebook about the things you learned on a national 4-H trip and how they impacted you
- Illustrate in a visual display the process of how a bill becomes a law
- Create a visual representation about the different branches of government and how they work together



Adapted with permission from Wyoming State 4-H, Project Information Sheet, Civic Engagement. Retrieved from: <http://www.uwyo.edu/4-h/projects/leadership-civic-engagement/civic-engagement.html>.

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