4-H Families,

It’s time for the March issue of Exploring 4-H!

This month, we look more closely at how to impact your community through 4-H. Adult volunteers are incredibly important to the success of 4-H in our communities, and youth service to the community is something that 4-H is known for. The issue will highlight the steps and roles adults can fill as volunteers and give youth the chance to brainstorm community service ideas.

If you’re new to 4-H as of the past month or you haven’t had a chance to check out the previous editions, you can find all previous issues on our [website](#).

- October – The 4-H Pledge
- November – Projects
- December – Club Meetings
- January – Terminology
- February – Structure of 4-H

Don’t forget to fill out [this short survey](#). 4-H is all about “making the best better”, and your feedback helps us improve!

Please stay home and healthy during this time. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

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Volunteering: How Can You Help?

Volunteers are a huge part of the success of 4-H and help make 4-H possible. Many club leaders, project leaders, and chaperones are volunteers. While the experience level of volunteers is extremely varied, our volunteers have one thing in common: wanting to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. In addition to making a positive impact with youth, 4-H volunteers gain important life skills of their own and also impact the communities in which they volunteer.

Becoming a 4-H Volunteer

To ensure volunteers in the 4-H program are supported from the same foundation and to protect the safety and best interests of 4-H members, all adult 4-H volunteers 18 years of age and older must complete these required training steps.

1. Complete a background check
2. Attend Volunteers in Preparation Training
3. Sign Volunteer Behavior Expectations Agreement
4. Complete Mandated Reporter Training in 4HOnline

To learn more about these steps or to get started on your volunteer journey, contact your local 4-H educator.

Wisconsin 4-H Volunteer Roles

There are many ways to volunteer in 4-H. All volunteers work with youth and adult volunteers in offering a positive youth development experience for youth. Wisconsin’s 4-H program has 6 main roles for volunteers.

- Activity/Event Volunteers lead or organize a 4-H activity or event.
- Adult Advisor/Chaperones work with 4-H educators to chaperone a 4-H educational experience.
- Club Enrollment Coordinator leads and supports enrollment in a club or group.
- Club Leader provides leadership for a club or group organization.
- Committee Volunteers help lead or participate as a member of a committee.
- Project Leaders provide leadership and organization to a group learning about a specific topic.

Can I help without volunteering?

Not everyone has the capacity to be able to be a volunteer. Check in with your club leader or local 4-H educator to find out other ways you can still make an impact on the program without serving 4-H in an official capacity. This might mean bringing in treats to club meetings or helping to clean up the room after a meeting is done! Any help you give makes the experience more positive for everyone.
Helping Hands

The 4-H pledge talks about using your hands for larger service. Not only can you use your hands to help your club through leadership and teaching, but you can use your hands to help your community too! 4-H members are known for helping their community through service. Plan your own community service project by answering the questions below!

Who needs (or would benefit from) help?
Choose an organization (example: animal shelter or food pantry), group of people (people who are elderly), or a person who you’d like to help (a neighbor).

How can I help?
List skills (example: art or building), interests (being outside), or abilities (talking to other people) that you want to use to make a difference.

What tasks need to get done?
Match the “how” with the “who”! Write what you need to do to complete your project and the supplies you’ll need to accomplish it. (Example: If you are creating cards for people in a senior living facility, you will need to contact the facility, gather writing supplies, create the cards, and deliver the cards.)

How did it go?
Once you’ve done your community service project, reflect on how things went and how you might do things differently if you did it again. What went well? What could be better?

Almost every club does a community service project. At your next club meeting, ask a club officer or your club leader what project your club is doing this year!