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From Steven Worker, 4-H Youth Development Advisor



Service Learning Projects for the Winter Season

Winter returns on December 21, marked by the solstice. During this time of year, 4-H Clubs often conduct service to benefit others in our communities. This year shows greater than normal needs in our communities due to the wildfires. We hope your 4-H Club will support their membership and the community by conducting service learning projects.

Service learning combines community service and education with the intent that the activity changes both the recipient(s) and the youth providing a service. Service learning involves active learning - drawing lessons from the experience of performing community service work. By engaging in service learning, youth learn interpersonal skills, leadership skills, planning and organizational skills, and often experience a positive change in how they view themselves, their community, and the world.

Here are three basic components to effective service-learning:

1. Youth set objectives for skills to be learned and community needs to address.
2. With guidance from adults, youth plan a project so that learning takes place at the same time community work gets done.
3. Youth and adults perform the service.
4. Youth reflect on the experience and draw lessons through discussion with others.

Service learning is more than just community service and more than just educational – it is both high service and high learning! Find more at http://4h.ucanr.edu/Projects/Citizenship/service_learning/

Examples of service learning activities to help with wildfire recovery:

- Have members talk to those in need, or agencies who coordinate supplies, and identify materials needed during winter. While 4-H Clubs may not provide cash/check contributions directly, Clubs may purchase materials to donate to others, when it is part of a service learning project.
- Ask senior/elderly homes about their needs and organize visits and activities.
- Have youth learn about livestock needs and help locals rebuild livestock pens/fencing.

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at <http://ucanr.edu/4hadvisor>