



Missouri 4-H Community Service-Learning Census 2018-2019

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 “Inspires Kids to Do,” clubs provide service to their communities year-round, engaging youth and adults in leadership development, creating strong intergenerational ties, and locally meeting needs.

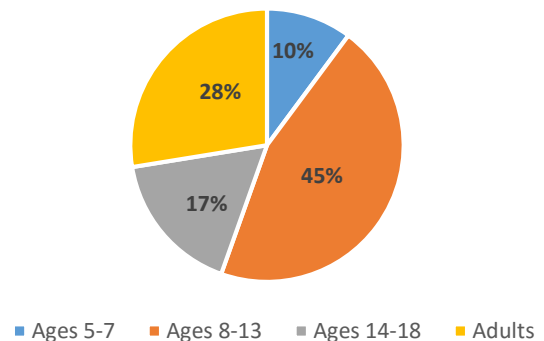


By the Numbers

During 2018-19 4-H members and clubs across Missouri engaged in service to “better their best” and to enhance their communities:

- **280 clubs from 70 counties** reported community service-learning activities for 2018-19. These clubs reported more than ***93,897 hours of service**, a contribution **valued at nearly \$2.25 million** to Missouri communities (Independent Sector).
- **The average Missouri 4-H club engaged 26 youth and 7 adults in over *335 hours of service**, a “giving back” contribution valued at over \$8,000 per club to their rural and urban communities.
- **Youth ages 8-13 made up the largest portion of 4-H volunteers serving their communities** (45.3%), with adult volunteers (27.6%), teen 4-H members (16.9%), and Clover Kids ages 5-7 (10.2%) rounding out the base of participants in organized service projects.
- Clubs reported 7,142 club members and 1,969 adult leaders participating in **1,476 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 850 clubs in 2018-19, Missouri 4-H members spent an estimated total of 285,000 hours in service-learning, a contribution of \$6.8 million back to communities.**

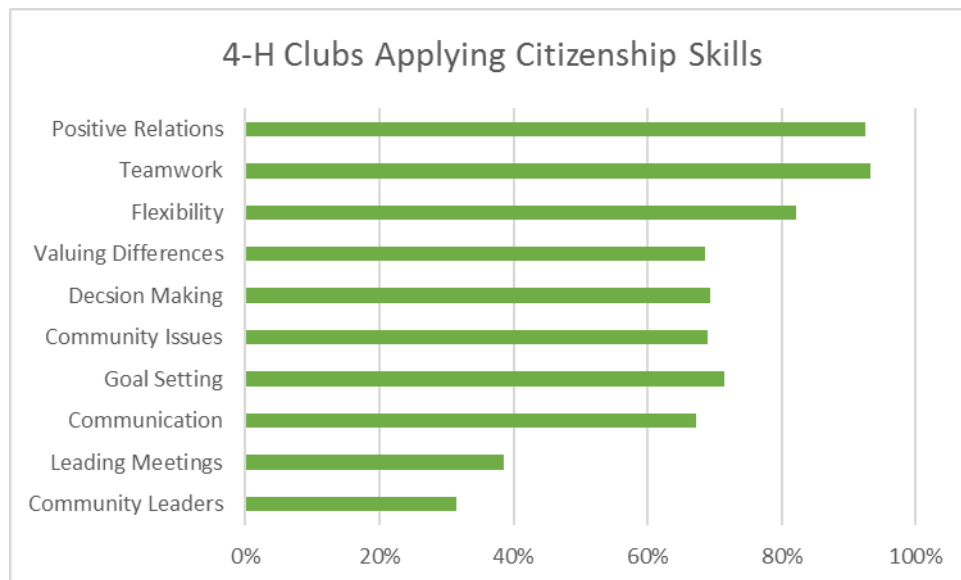
4-H Club Service Participants by Age





Citizenship Skills

4-H club leaders reported on 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:



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

The least frequently reported skill areas were “Leading meeting with parliamentary procedure” (39%) and “Interacting with local and/or state government leaders” (31%).

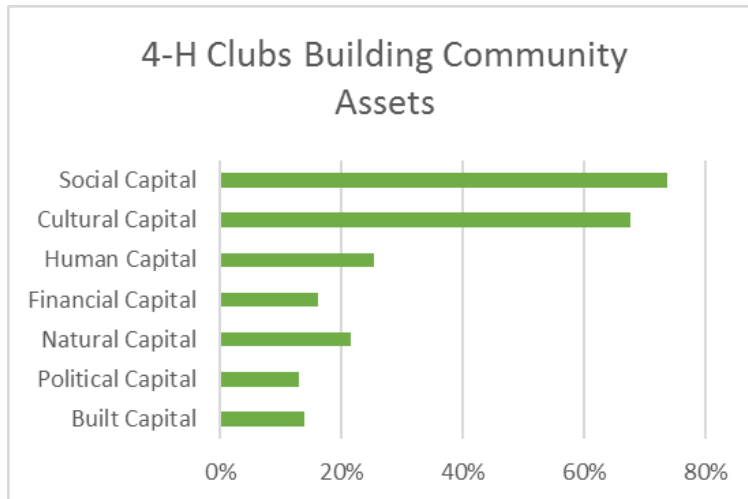
Other key skills 4-H youth gained included “Being flexible and adaptable” (82%), “Making informed decisions” (69%), and “Valuing and respecting differences” (69%).

Citizenship skills in action:

- “Members worked hard to raise funds for the club and had some serious discussions about how to allocate these funds. They talked at length about how many Buddy Packs to sponsor, and listened respectfully to one another during these discussions. Following parliamentary procedure, they made motions, discussed, and voted on whether to contribute to Buddy Packs, then how many to sponsor.” (Prairie Home Helping Hands 4-H Club, Cooper County)
- “Our youth learned to work as a team operating the Mayview Cook Shack. They learned to use their words to communicate and plan a successful line of operation. When I see the youth interacting and trading stories with our adopted grandparents, I know they are using the public knowledge skills we are working on in our meetings. Seeing our youth working and teaming up with the younger youth truly speaks of the 4-H standard ‘Learn by Doing.’” (40 Ville 4-H Club, Lafayette County)



Community Assets



4-H club leaders also reported on which community assets were 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,” 74%) and Cultural Capital (“Community spirit,” 67%).

The least frequently reported community assets built by service were Built Capital (“Building improvements,” 14%) and Political Capital (“Connecting with elected officials,” 13%).

One noteworthy community asset 4-Hers were observed to build was Human Capital, characterized by 4-H members “Teaching others,” (25%) through educational programs or awareness building.

Community asset building in action:

- The Montrose Busy Beavers 4-H Club (Henry County) shoveled snow to clear the driveways and sidewalks of elderly community members (Social Capital).
- The Helping Hands 4-H Club (Grundy County) made dog toys out of old t-shirts and donated them to the local animal shelter (Social Capital, Human Capital, Natural Capital).

Community Service Grants

Missouri 4-H Foundation

Sponsored by Crader Distributing, Stihldealers.com, 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.

2019 4-H Recipients

- Audrain County, Lafayette 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
- Supporting older 4-H members in leading service to learn project management and facilitation skills
- 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 involving 4-Hers “teaching others”
- Guiding 4-H groups in thinking beyond quick-fix projects
- Supporting youth communication skill-building and project publicity
- 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 Inspiring Kids to Do](#)
- [Youth Leading Community Change: An Evaluation Toolkit](#)

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 Hennes, State 4-H Specialist, 4-H Center for Youth Development, hennes@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

2019 4-H Recipients

- City Clovers 4-H (Barton County), Brookfield 4-Hers (Linn County), Elkhorn 4-H (Warren County), Green Hills 4-H (Sullivan County), Learn A Do 4-H (Barton County), Lucky Clover Valley 4-H (Howell County), Spring Garden 4-H (Miller County), T-Town 4-H (Miller County)

<http://agriculture.mo.gov/connect/youth/boac.php>

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

2019 4-H Recipients

- Andrew County, Audrain County, Barry County, Barton County, Buchanan County, Callaway County, Carroll County, Dallas County, Harrison County, Johnson County, Knox County, Lafayette County, Mercer County, Monroe County, Nodaway County, Pettis County, Putman County, Ralls County, Ray County, Sullivan County, Vernon County, and Warren County

<https://www.myfcsfinancial.com/news/fcs-financial-awards-44-community-improvement-grants>