



## Identifying a 4-H Service Project

- **Conduct a survey of public officials and citizens**

Ask questions:

- If you could select one thing to add to our community that would benefit everyone what would that be?
- Rate our community from 1 to 10 with 10 being the best, why?
- List two positive things about our community.
- If you had a million dollars to fix up our community, what would you improve or add?
- What are some of the needs in the community that could be addressed by a group of willing citizens?
- Are there other groups that need help in a community project?

- **Visit with school officials and educators**

Ask them questions about the needs of the school and the youth attending school.

- **Read local newspapers**

Have the 4-Hers read the local papers and circle the “needs” of the community. It could be minutes from the city council, an ad about a local benefit, a human interest story, etc.

- **Conduct a neighborhood search or “walkabout”**

Take a walking tour of your community. Make observations as you walk through the town. How could the appearance be improved? What opportunities are there for you? Dream about what you would do if you were a city planner. Make a list of all the ideas.

- **Talk with noted authorities about community problems or successful programs**

Who in your community knows the “happenings” in your community? Ask them what the needs are and who is doing what in that area.

- **Collaborate with other service providers**

Identify other service groups in your community (Lions, Rotary, etc) and visit about the possibilities of working together.

- **Focus on key public issues such as homelessness, literacy, environment**

Think about the topics you hear about in the community. How can your group address them?

- **Build on 4-H expertise such as teaching others, contributing project work or presenting a performance**

Think about the strengths of your club. Do you have a number of seamstress, gardeners, demonstrators? Think about their strengths and interest and see how it can relate to a need in the community, (i.e. have the club sew fleece mittens for youth in the community).

- **Discuss personal visions for a better community world**

Have the 4-Hers write down what they would envision for a perfect community. Then have them discuss the difference from their perfect community and their own community. What are the differences to be addressed by your club? If so how?