CITIZENS OF THE FUTURE

Why and how to build your service adventure?

Why is citizenship important? 4-H citizenship programs empower youth to be well-informed citizens who are actively engaged in their communities and the world. Through 4-H citizenship programs, youth learn about civic affairs, build decision-making skills, and develop a sense of understanding and confidence in relating and connecting to other people. These life skills help grow 4-H youth into true leaders.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

When I see you through my eyes, I think that we are different. When I see you through my heart I know we are the same.

- Doe Zantamata

Steps to building your service adventure:

1) Explore
2) Choose
3) Network
4) Plan
5) Action
6) Celebrate

This 4-H Fact Sheet will give you more information on each of the above steps to make your service adventure successful!

I pledge my **Health** *for better living,*
For my **Club**,
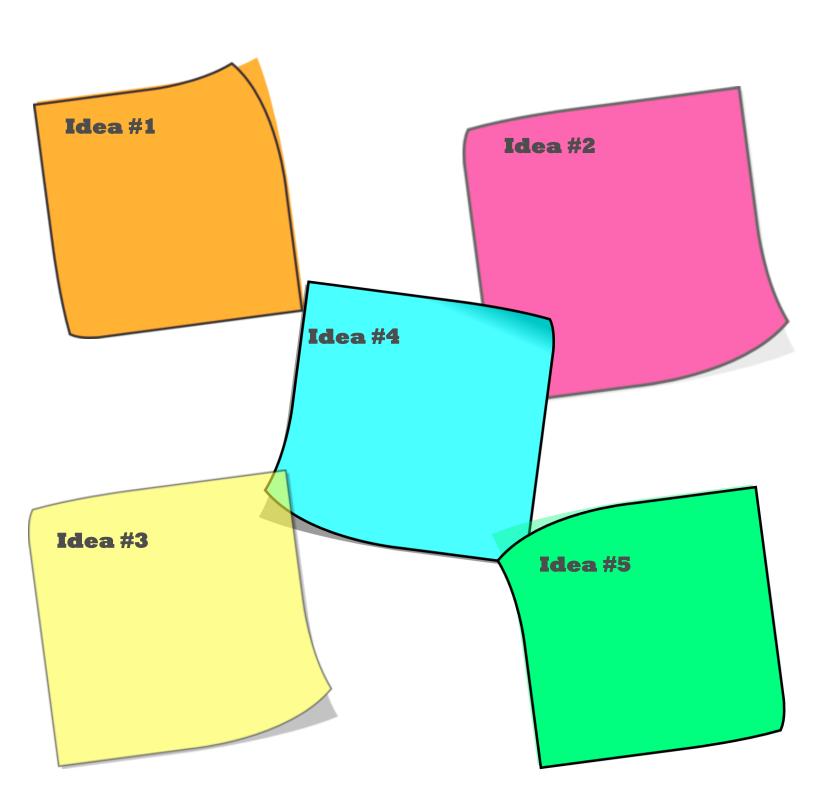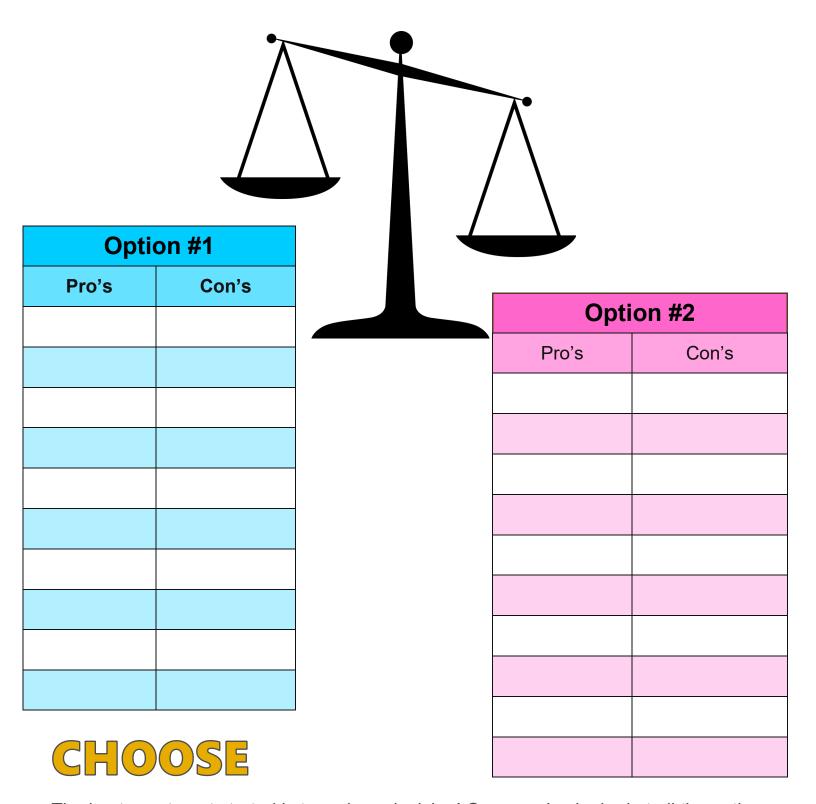*My* **Community**,
My **County**,
And my **World**!

1

EXPLORE

The key to **exploring** a service project is to look at a variety of options in your community. The best way to do this is to interview people in your community to find out what they think are the areas of need in your community. As a team, split up and interview several different people in several different walks of life. Take good notes so your team can review all the details together. Do some research on the internet as well, related to some of the potential projects that your team is considering. Since a service activity can be anything that gives back to the community, be sure to explore all of your options!

Idea #1

Idea #2

Idea #4

Idea #3

Idea #5

Option #1	
Pro's	Con's

Option #2	
Pro's	Con's

CHOOSE

The best way to get started is to make a decision! Once you've looked at all the options, decide which project you think you can accomplish and make some positive impact on! The service opportunities available to you are endless, and it may seem difficult to **choose** only one. When making your choice, there are many factors to consider: Are there potential partners to help you? Will you need any special equipment or funding?

You may find many great project ideas that do not fit within the time you have to work with. Choose a mission that truly interests your team, and best represents the impact you want to make in your community! Work together as a team to determine which project best fits your group!

3

NETWORK

Once you have your project, others outside the group will be affected by it.

As a group, you will need to brainstorm the idea of who can help you with your project.
You'll need allies = people who will help the group
You'll need resources = people who will provide information
This group of people will be your network.

You should also learn who are your obstacles = those opposed to the group's work.

Next, you need to explore your **network** list. Divide a sheet of paper into 3 columns:
- ♦ Column 1: list people who you believe are influential in your community
- ♦ Column 2: list their interests
- ♦ Column 3: identify their influence/connections

Interview individuals who are on your network list. Narrow down your matches for your project.

Person's Name	Person's Interest	Reasons Influence/ Connections

Maricopa County 4-H Program
Title: Sample Plan

Notes: (this section is for any special notes a committee member would need to know before utilizing the checklist)

To Do to Prepare for process: (this section is for any items that need to be completed before utilizing the checklist – it is the goal that we will accomplish all of these items as we develop the checklist)

Checklist: (step-by-step, spelled out process for accomplishing the task)

Task to be Accomplished	Person to Accomplish	Date to Complete
Example: Interview people on this list	*Robin*	*4/22/2017*
Example: Plan community service meeting for all members	*Kim*	*5/1/2017*

PLAN

In order for your project to happen you need a **plan** of action! This plan will take you from point A to point B, all the way to your goal.

When working on your plan of action, ask yourself:
1. What things do we need to do?
2. In what order should we complete these things?
3. Who will we be working with?
4. What resources do we need?
5. What problems might arise?
6. How much time do we have to complete each step, and the whole project?

Action plan should include:
- ♦ **Assignments** - who will complete each task
- ♦ **Target dates** - when will each task be done
- ♦ **Resources** - what materials do we need
- ♦ **Network** - who can help us
- ♦ **Obstacles** - what might stand in your way
- ♦ **Overcoming Obstacles** - what can we do to overcome the obstacles that we fact

ACTION

In order for your group to stay on track to their destination, they have to actually do what is planned. This sounds obvious, but it will be harder than you think. Everyone is busy and has homework and other activities that they are involved with. Sometimes it will be hard to make the time and get motivated to do things for your project. Everyone in the group has to learn to be held accountable, and to hold others accountable too. **Being accountable means that they do what they agree to do when they say they will do it.** While doing your project, it is a good idea to record and evaluate your progress along the way.

   Ask:
   - What went well?
   - What didn't go well?
   - What could we have done differently?
   - What did we learn?
   - Can we continue the project?
   - Did we discover any new obstacles, allies, or resources?
   - Can we add new details?

CELEBRATE

Adventures aren't just meant to be celebrated, they are meant to be remembered. The best adventure stories tell you not only what went right, but what went wrong, and how the problems were solved. They show you how people grow and change when they do something important for someone else. They can also inspire others to get involved. No matter how the project turned out, you have an important story to tell. Doing a final evaluation and planning your next steps will help you tell your story. Final evaluation: taking answers from questions that you answered in the "action" step while doing your project will help you create a final evaluation of what worked and what didn't work. Once the evaluation is complete, it's time to celebrate! Have a pizza party at the final meeting, invite your network, share favorite moments, and let the community know what you did by submitting an article to the local community newspaper, community Facebook page, or Chamber of Commerce website - be sure to include your clubs name and 4-H!

Love. Grow. Serve.