4-H Community Service Project Ideas

FOOD-RELATED
- Canned food drive
- Cookies for homeless
- Thanksgiving baskets
- Trick-or-Treat so Others Can Eat
- Serve at soup kitchen
- Volunteer at Food Shelf
- Deliver Meals on Wheels
- Birthday Kits (cake mix, frosting, candles, sprinkles, etc.) for Food Shelf
- Second Harvest food donation

CLEAN-UP/ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS
- Rake leaves for elderly
- Mowing lawns
- Christmas in September
- Cleaning streets
- Cleaning up parks, schools & lake shore
- Rake-n-Run
- Clean up for community
- Gardens for Seniors
- Helping Hands
- Adopt-a-Highway
- Parade clean-up
- Clean cemetery/plant flowers, esp. before Memorial/Labor Days
- Plant bushes/flowers in a park
- Town Hall weeding/flower beds

GIFT/HOLIDAY RELATED
- Christmas boxes/presents
- Santa’s Helpers
• Birthday Bags
• Angel Tree
• Gift wrapping
• Operation Christmas Child
• Cloth-a-Child
• Christmas Cards for Troops/Elderly
• Adopting a family
• Decorate pumpkins
• Haunted House
• Halloween program
• Make Easter baskets for Hospital/Nursing home patients (sugar-free candy)
• Holiday cookies to troops/elderly
• Thanksgiving Dinner for a family
• Caroling at Nursing Home
• Ring bell for Salvation Army
• Toys for Tots
• Pass out poppies for Memorial Day
• Christmas wreaths, holiday ornaments
• Community Easter Egg Hunt

SCHOOL-RELATED
• Raising money for school
• Operation Backpack
• Collect used books and distribute to kids in need
• Collect school supplies for Iraqi children
• Collect Yoplait lids, box tops, etc. for schools
• Collect new undies, socks, & pants for elementary schools (for kids when they have an accident)

SENIOR CENTERS/NURSING HOMES
• Pet Therapy
• Grandparents’ program
• Nursing Home/Assisted Living Bingo
• Create a butterfly garden at Nursing home (with Master Gardener help)
• Create a County Fair for residents
• Deliver muffins, cookies, fruit plates, etc.
• Assist with community Senior Dining
• Senior Citizen Game Night
• Entertaining (skit, music) and doing crafts with Nursing home residents
• Make garden planters/window boxes
• Table decorations for dining rooms
• Senior Prom at Nursing Home/assisted living

PROJECTS WITH/FOR CHARITIES
• March of Dimes
• Race for the Cure
• Special Olympics
• United Way
• Relay for Life
• Book drive
• Humane Society- raise money, walk animals, donate food for animals
• Habitat for Humanity
• Ronald McDonald House
• St. Jude's Fund
• Collect glasses for Lion’s Club
• Collect cell phones for battered women’s shelters
• Youth Service America (www.ysa.org)
• Teddy bear collection for Domestic Abuse Victims
• Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue Foundation
• Operation Military Kids
• Quilts of Valor

4-H RELATED
• Ag Day for 4th grade students
• 4-H Leader Appreciation
• 4-H Recruitment
• Maintenance of Fairgrounds
• Build benches for County Fair
• Help hang pennant banners inside 4-H building
• Cloverbud Connection – teach K-2 about 4-H

LOCAL COMMUNITY RELATED
• Help at homeless shelters
• Church Counselors
• Kids’ Fest
• Address signs
• Volunteer at the library
• Lead Farm, Bike or Animal Safety Day
• Assist neighbors
• Create audio books for hospitals
• Decorate Town Hall for voting
• Provide Reflective tape to local farmers & elevators along with a pamphlet to explain where they are to be placed on farm implements
• Pick apples for an elderly person
• Kids’ coat drive
• Make blankets for shut-ins, elderly, troops, families, etc.
• Make blankets, hats, for newborns at hospital or Public Health
• Prom for adults w/disabilities
• Dog grooming for elderly & handicapped people
• Fundraiser for local family, cancer patient, etc.
• Mitten tree

OTHER IDEAS
• Adopt-a-Soldier
• Collect toiletries, etc.; box and send to 3rd world countries
• Volunteer as childcare provider, esp. at school conferences
• Make cards/donate toys for kids at Children’s Hospital

Compiled by Jill Grams, McLeod County 4-H Program Coordinator and Andrea Lucas, McLeod County Support Staff