

Lesson E4–2

Developing an Awareness for Your Community

Unit E. Developing Leadership Skills in Agriculture

Problem Area 4. Participating in Community and Government Organizations

Lesson 2. Developing an Awareness for Your Community

New Mexico Content Standard:

Pathway Strand: Leadership and Teamwork

Standard: XI: Use leadership skills in collaborating with others to accomplish organizational goals and objectives.

Benchmark: XI-D: Include self, community, diversity, environment, global awareness and knowledge to develop premier leadership.

Performance Standard: 1. Participate in issues important to the community. 2. Perform leadership tasks associated with citizenship. 3. Study local, state, national, and global issues. 4. Apply knowledge gained from study of trends and issues. 5. Participate in activities that promote acceptance of diversity.

Student Learning Objectives. Instruction in this lesson should result in students achieving the following objectives:

1. Describe the meaning and importance of community service.
2. List and identify community service organizations.
3. Explain how FFA members can be involved with community improvement and development.

List of Resources. The following resources may be useful in teaching this lesson:

Recommended Resources. One of the following resources should be selected to accompany the lesson:

Fraze, Steven D., Sharon Hunter, Marshall Stewart, Brenda Scheil, and Robert Terry, Jr. *Developing Leadership and Personal Skills*. Danville, Illinois: Interstate Publishers, Inc., 1997. (Textbook, Chapter 16)

National FFA Organization. *FFA Student Handbook*. Alexandria, Virginia: National FFA Organization, 1995.

National FFA Organization. *Official Manual*. Indianapolis, Indiana: National FFA Center, 1998.

Other Resources. The following resources will be useful to students and teachers:

Morgan, Elizabeth M., et al. *AgriScience Explorations*, Second Edition. Danville, Illinois: Interstate Publishers, Inc., 2000. (Textbook, Chapter 21)

Cooper, Elmer L. and Bret Iverson. *AgriScience Fundamentals and Applications*. Albany, New York: Delmar Publishers, Inc., 1997. (Textbook, Unit 6)

List of Equipment, Tools, Supplies, and Facilities

Writing surface
Overhead projector
Transparencies from attached masters
Copies of student lab sheet

Terms. The following terms are presented in this lesson (shown in bold Italics):

Citizen
Civic clubs
Community service
Community service campaign
Plan of service
Religion-based organizations
Service
Student organizations
Teamwork
Volunteer
Volunteerism
Youth organizations

Interest Approach. Use an interest approach that will prepare the students for the lesson. Teachers often develop approaches for their unique class and student situations. A possible approach is included here. Invite an elected community official to speak to your class about their duties, responsibilities, and influences on the community. Have your students attend a community civic organization meeting and report back to the class on what type of issues were discussed.

Summary of Content and Teaching Strategies

Objective 1: Describe the meaning and importance of community service.

Anticipated Problem: What is community service and why is it important?

- I. **Community service** is performing activities that improve the quality of life in a community.
 - A. **Service** is helping others or providing for others through helpful acts.
 1. It is for individuals who may have special needs.
 2. It is for the overall benefit of the communities where we live.
 - B. A **community service campaign** is an organized and intense effort to carry out an activity.
 - C. Service projects may include charitable activities, community improvement activities, and fund raising campaigns.
 - D. The benefits of community service may include the following:
 1. Give people a new perspective in life.
 2. Provide a learning experience that extends the boundaries of the classroom.
 3. Helps to pull a community together.
 4. Provides educational opportunities.
 - E. Many service projects require volunteerism.
 1. **Volunteerism** is the giving of one's time without pay.
 2. A **volunteer** is an individual who willingly performs a service without monetary rewards.
 - F. Participating in community service projects helps to develop a responsible citizen.
 1. A **citizen** is a person who lives in a certain location.
 2. Responsible citizenship is an asset that is respected by others.
 3. Sometimes people are called to provide volunteer service during periods of disaster.
 4. Problem solving skills can be enhanced through service projects.
 - G. Service projects teach people to work together for a common cause, **teamwork**.
 - H. Service projects can take people outdoors and provide release from stress of school and work.
 - I. Working in service projects has the following benefits:
 1. Develops self-confidence.

2. Promotes positive team development.
3. Strengthens the individual emotionally, physically and spiritually.
4. Builds healthy people, environments, and communities.

Use a variety of techniques to help students master this objective. Providing text materials will enhance student learning, with chapter 16 in *Developing Leadership and Personal Skills* being recommended. Use TM:E4–2A to further explain the benefits of community service activities. Use TM:E4–2B to aid in describing how service projects can develop the whole person. Use LS:E4–2A to survey community needs and determine some needed community service projects.

Objective 2: List and identify community service organizations.

Anticipated Problem: What are some common community service organizations?

- II. Each community has several service organizations.
 - A. Service organizations are designed to make a positive difference and to allow the volunteer to become involved.
 - B. Most service organizations select activities to inspire people to volunteer and become involved.
 - C. Some national organizations reach out and serve more than one community or state. Examples of these organizations include the following:
 1. American Red Cross
 2. American Cancer Society
 3. Salvation Army
 4. Christian Children’s Fund
 5. March of Dimes
 - D. Types of community Service Organizations may include:
 1. **Civic clubs**-groups formed to improve life in the local community.
 - a. Lion’s Club
 - b. Kiwanis
 - c. Rotary Club
 - d. Optimists Club
 - e. Business and Professional Women
 - f. American Association of University Women
 2. **Religion-based organizations**-these are organizations for both youth and adults in the wide range of religions and faiths.
 3. **Youth organizations**-most communities have organizations that focus especially on the development of young people.
 - a. 4-H
 - b. Girl Scouts of America
 - c. Boy Scouts of America

- d. Campfire Boys and Girls
- 4. **Student organizations**-organizations in schools that provide community service activities.
 - a. FFA
 - b. FHA-Hero-Future Homemakers of America
 - c. FBLA-Future Business Leaders of America
 - d. VICA-Vocational Industrial Clubs of America
 - e. NHS-National Honor Society
 - f. DECA-Distributive Education Clubs of America
 - g. JHNHS-Jr. High National Honor Society

Use a range of teaching strategies to enhance student mastery of the types of community service organizations. Text materials will enhance understanding. Chapter 16 in Developing Leadership and Personal Skills is recommended. Use TM:E4–2C to help explain the types of national service organizations. Use TM:E4–2D to help students understand the types of community service groups. Ask students to name as many advantages as they can for joining other organizations while being FFA members. List them on the board. Have students attend meetings of city, county, or state groups involved in community service activities. Encourage students to join other youth groups and organizations to give them a well rounded background.

Objective 3: Explain how FFA members can be involved with community improvement and development.

Anticipated Problem: What can FFA members do to become involved in community improvement and development?

- III. Service activities may be carried out by individuals or by groups.
 - A. Large projects usually require the resource of groups.
 - B. A group consists of dedicated volunteers.
 - C. A **plan of service** is a written statement of the group’s skills and talents and the ways of providing service. It helps to schedule activities to assure completion.
 - D. Plan a calendar of time for service work.
 - E. The “Community Development Division” of the Program of Activities tracks service activities. The POA helps to develop economic, environmental, and human resources; citizenship; agriculture awareness and literacy; and safety within a community.
 - F. Volunteers need to be sincere about caring and helping.
 - G. Through community service projects, positive attitudes create positive results.
 - H. It is important to “plan your work and work your plan.”
 - I. Many service activities require teamwork to be successful.
 - J. Keep the membership of your organization informed as to the progress with the activities.

Many methods can be used to help students achieve this objective. Students need text materials to fully understand the objective. Chapter 4 in the FFA Student Handbook and Chapter 16 in Developing Leadership and Personal Skills are recommended.

Review/Summary. Use the objectives for the lesson as guides in reviewing and summarizing the content. Have the students explain the content associated with each objective. Use questions at the end of the chapter text materials as a form of review.

Application. Students can apply the content of this lesson in their agricultural education and FFA activities. The following lab sheet provides excellent application of the objectives.

Community Needs Survey—LS: E4–2A

Evaluation. Assessing the extent to which the students have achieved the objectives can be based on student participation in reviewing and summarizing the lessons as well as attentiveness throughout. A written test can also be given. A sample written test is attached.

Answers to Sample Test:

Part One: Matching

1=c 2=e, 3=a, 4=d, 5=b

Part Two: Completion

1=Individuals/groups
2=Community Development Division
3=Volunteer, involved
4=National organizations

Part Three: Short Answer

1. 4-H, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, Campfire Boys and Girls

Test

Lesson E4–2: Developing an Awareness for Your Community

Part One: Matching

Instructions. Match the term with the correct response. Write the letter of the term by the definition.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| a. Volunteerism | d. Community Service Campaign |
| b. Citizen | e. Civic Club |
| c. Service | |

- _____ 1. Helping others or providing for each other through helpful acts.
- _____ 2. Group formed to improve life in a community.
- _____ 3. Giving of one’s time without pay.
- _____ 4. Organized effort to carry out an activity.
- _____ 5. Person who lives in a certain location.

Part Two: Completion

Instructions. Provide the word or words to complete the following statements.

1. Service activities may be carried out by _____ or _____.
2. The _____ of the POA is a method of tracking community service activities.
3. Most service organizations select activities to inspire people to _____ and become _____.
4. _____ reach out to serve more than one community or state.

Part Three: Short Answer

Instructions. Provide information to answer the following questions.

1. List four groups that primarily focus on youth.

Benefits of Community Service

- **Gives people a new perspective on life**
- **Is an extension of the classroom**
- **Develops unity with a community.**
- **Provides educational opportunities.**

Working in Service Projects Can:

- **Help develop self-confidence.**
- **Promote positive team development.**
- **Emotionally, physically, and spiritually strengthen the participants.**
- **Build healthy people, environments, and communities.**

Examples of National Organizations

- 1. American Red Cross**
- 2. American Cancer Society**
- 3. Salvation Army**
- 4. Christian Children’s Fund**
- 5. March of Dimes**

Types of Community Service Groups

- 1. Civic Club-Local group formed to inspire community life.**
- 2. Religion-based Organizations-for both youth and adults in various religions or faiths.**
- 3. Youth Organizations-Organizations specifically focused for youth.**
- 4. Student Organizations-Organizations in schools.**

Lab Sheet

Community Needs Survey

Purpose:

1. To determine the needs of the local community in service projects.

Materials:

1. Lab Sheets
2. Writing Utensils

Procedure:

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four students.
2. Have each group brainstorm and answer the survey questions.
3. After all groups have finished, write all the ideas on the board and discuss them.

1. What do you think are the important needs of our community? (List up to three.)

a.

b.

c.

2. Can you suggest one or more projects or activities that will help to meet one or more of these needs?

a.

b.

c.

3. Can you name local people who are aware of these needs?

a.

b.

c.

4. Can you identify any groups and organizations that might help with any of these needs?

a.

b.

c.