

# Service and Cloverbuds — A Great Fit

## Use These Activities in Your 4-H Club or Group to Involve 5- to 8-Year-Olds in Community Service!

When children get involved in community service activities when they're young, they're more likely to develop a lifelong habit of service to others. Consider involving your 4-H Cloverbuds (4-H'ers aged 5 to 8) in community service activities this year! They'll practice being responsible, caring for others and doing their share to make their communities better. Since this age group is so influenced by the adults and teens in their lives, be sure to show your enthusiasm for community service activities.

Keep in mind the five steps of community service when planning projects for your young 4-H'ers. Work with them to:

1. Assess the community.
2. Plan the project.
3. Complete the service.
4. Reflect on their learning.
5. Celebrate their success.

**For more community service ideas, tips on working with 5- to 8-year-olds and other resources, visit the Michigan 4-H Community Service Web site at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/cyf/youth/differen.html>.**



### SERVICE ACTIVITY:

## Feed a Bird

These simple bird feeders are easy to make and provide many hours of birdwatching fun. They can be donated to local nursing homes or hospitals or to people who can't leave their homes. Be sure to offer to hang the feeders for the recipients when delivering them.

### OBJECTIVE:

- Experience a community service learning project.

### LIFE SKILLS:

- Teamwork
- Concern for animals

### MATERIALS:

- Pine cones
- Sugarless peanut butter
- Craft sticks
- Bird seed
- Waxed paper
- Heavy string
- Pie pans

### SETTING:

A room with work space (tables covered with newspaper and chairs for all participants)

### TIME:

About 30 minutes

### PROCEDURE:

1. Tie a string around the top of the pine cone.
2. Use the craft sticks to apply peanut butter to the pine cones.
3. Put the bird seed into a pie pan. Roll the pine cones in the bird seed. Shake off the extra seed.
4. Wrap the coated pine cone in waxed paper until ready for use.



## LESSON PLAN & SERVICE ACTIVITY:

# An Animal Jamboree

### OBJECTIVES:

The 4-H'ers will:

- Experience a community service learning project.
- Practice motor skills.
- Reflect on what they learn.
- Learn that community service is fun.

### LIFE SKILLS:

- Contributing to a group effort
- Concern for others
- Cooperation

### MATERIALS:

- Thin, multicolored washcloths (one per bunny)
- Small googly eyes (two per bunny)
- Rubber bands (one per bunny)
- 1/8-inch wide ribbon (one per bunny)
- 3/4-inch and 1/4-inch pompoms (one each per bunny)
- Craft glue or glue gun with glue sticks
- Thick sheets of colored paper
- Pencils or pens (one per person)

### SETTING:

A room with work space (tables covered with newspaper and chairs for all participants) and listening space (an area where everyone can sit on the floor to hear a story)

### TIME:

About 60 to 90 minutes

### PROCEDURE:

#### Before the meeting:

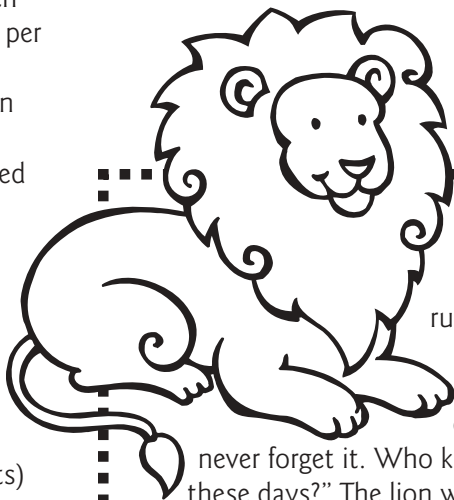
Contact local organizations or clinics to identify a group that could use a supply of free Boo Boo Bunnies to use onsite or give to their clientele. (Possibilities include a local organization that visits expectant mothers with child care tips and information, pediatricians' offices and local Head Start agencies.) Try to arrange for someone from the receiving organization to pick up the bunnies at the end of the meeting at which the kids make them so that the person can talk with the kids about the receiving organization.

### During the meeting:

1. Set the stage for the activity by reading aloud to the group the Parable (story) of the Lion and the Mouse.
2. Tell the group that they'll be able to help someone out in much the same way that the mouse was able to help the lion in the story they just heard. Tell them they will be making Boo Boo Bunnies to help comfort children who need first aid, and that they'll also make a Boo Boo Bunny to take home.
3. Give each child one washcloth, two googly eyes, one 1/4-inch pompom (for the nose), one 3/4-inch pompom (for the tail) and a short length of 1/8-inch wide ribbon for each Boo Boo Bunny he or she will be making. Set several bottles of craft glue around the table, or have an adult or older teen volunteer ready to use a glue gun as needed.

### LEADER'S NOTE:

Five- to eight-year-olds are still developing their hand-eye coordination skills, so their projects are often messy. An adult or older teen volunteer leader using a glue gun could help speed up the gluing process.



### The Parable of the Lion and the Mouse

Once when a lion was asleep a little mouse began running up and down on him. This running soon woke up the lion, who placed his huge paw on the the mouse and opened his big jaws to swallow him. "Pardon, O King," cried the little mouse. "Forgive me this time and I shall never forget it. Who knows but what I may be able to do you a turn some of these days?" The lion was so tickled at the idea of the mouse being able to help him that he lifted up his paw and let the mouse go. Some time after that encounter the lion was caught in a trap. The hunters who wished to deliver the live lion to the king tied him to a tree while they searched for a wagon to carry him on. Just then the little mouse happened to pass by, and seeing the lion's sad plight, went up to him and soon gnawed away the ropes that bound the King of the Beasts. "Was I not right?" said the little mouse.

**Moral: Little friends may prove great friends.**



4. Walk the group through making a supply of Boo Boo Bunnies. Demonstrate each of the following steps so that everyone can see you. You may want to recruit parent or older teen volunteers to walk around the tables and help the kids.

- Roll two opposite corners of a washcloth together toward the center until they meet.
- Fold the washcloth in half with the two rolls on the outside.
- Use the unrolled portion of the washcloth to form the ears. To create the bunny head, fold the ears down flat and on top of the rolls and wrap a rubber band around the entire thickness approximately 2 inches back, leaving the ears behind the rubber band. The body should be donut-shaped, with the head at the front of the donut and the ears on top.
- Put glue between the rolls in the body to hold everything in place.
- Glue on the googly eyes, the 1/4 inch pompom nose and the 3/4 inch pompom tail.

f. Tie the 1/8-inch wide ribbon around the bunny's neck and behind its ears.  
 g. Depending on the age and skill level of your group, have the children write out the poem that follows and attach it with a ribbon through the body of the Boo Boo Bunny. You may want to have them write "Made for you with love by the \_\_\_\_\_ 4-H Club" on the back of the tag, too.

*If a boo boo has you feeling crummy,  
 stick an ice cube in my tummy.  
 Hold it to your boo boo tight,  
 soon everything will be all right.*

5. Let the bunnies dry until someone from the receiving organization comes to pick them up. (Note: To protect the recipients from blood-borne diseases, instruct the representative of the receiving organizations that the bunnies should not be shared. They are intended to be given away and not reused.)

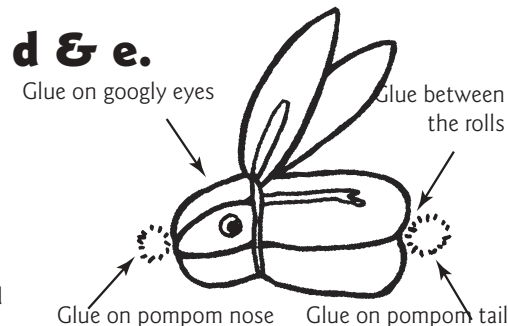
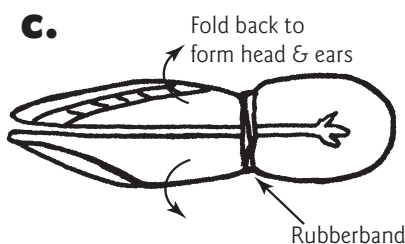
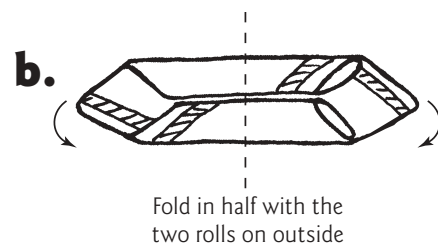
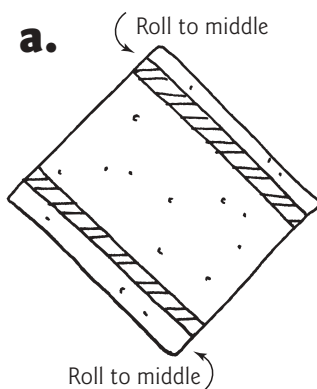
### Talking It Over:

- Ask the children if they remember what happened in the story about the lion and the mouse, then ask for a volunteer to briefly retell the story. Make sure that the story teller makes the point that the mouse helped out the lion. Then point out that by making the Boo Boo Bunnies, the children helped out someone else, too.
- Ask the children how they think the mouse felt at the end of the story. Ask them how helping made them feel.
- Ask how they think the lion felt about receiving the mouse's help. Ask how they think the people who receive the Boo Boo Bunnies will feel about receiving their Boo Boo Bunnies.

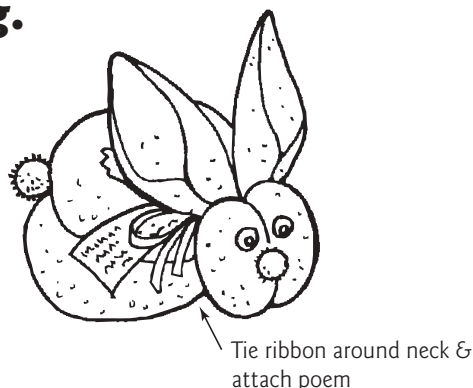
### LEADER'S NOTE:

Keep in mind that the attention span of most kids in this age group is about 20 minutes. Interspersing bouts of a movement activity (such as Pin the Tail on the Bunny) with the craft projects may be wise to help keep the children from becoming restless.

### Steps to Make a Boo Boo Bunny:



### f & g.



**REFLECTION ACTIVITY:**

# Pin the Tail on the Bunny

**OBJECTIVE:**

5- to 8-year-olds will use movement to understand what they have learned from community service projects.

**LIFE SKILLS:**

- Team work
- Cooperation
- Public speaking

**MATERIALS:**

- Overhead projector or photocopier with enlarging capabilities
- Scissors
- Pens or pencils
- Newsprint or other large paper
- Colored paper
- Posterboard
- Markers or crayons
- Masking tape

**SETTING:**

A room with an empty wall

**TIME:**

About 20 to 30 minutes

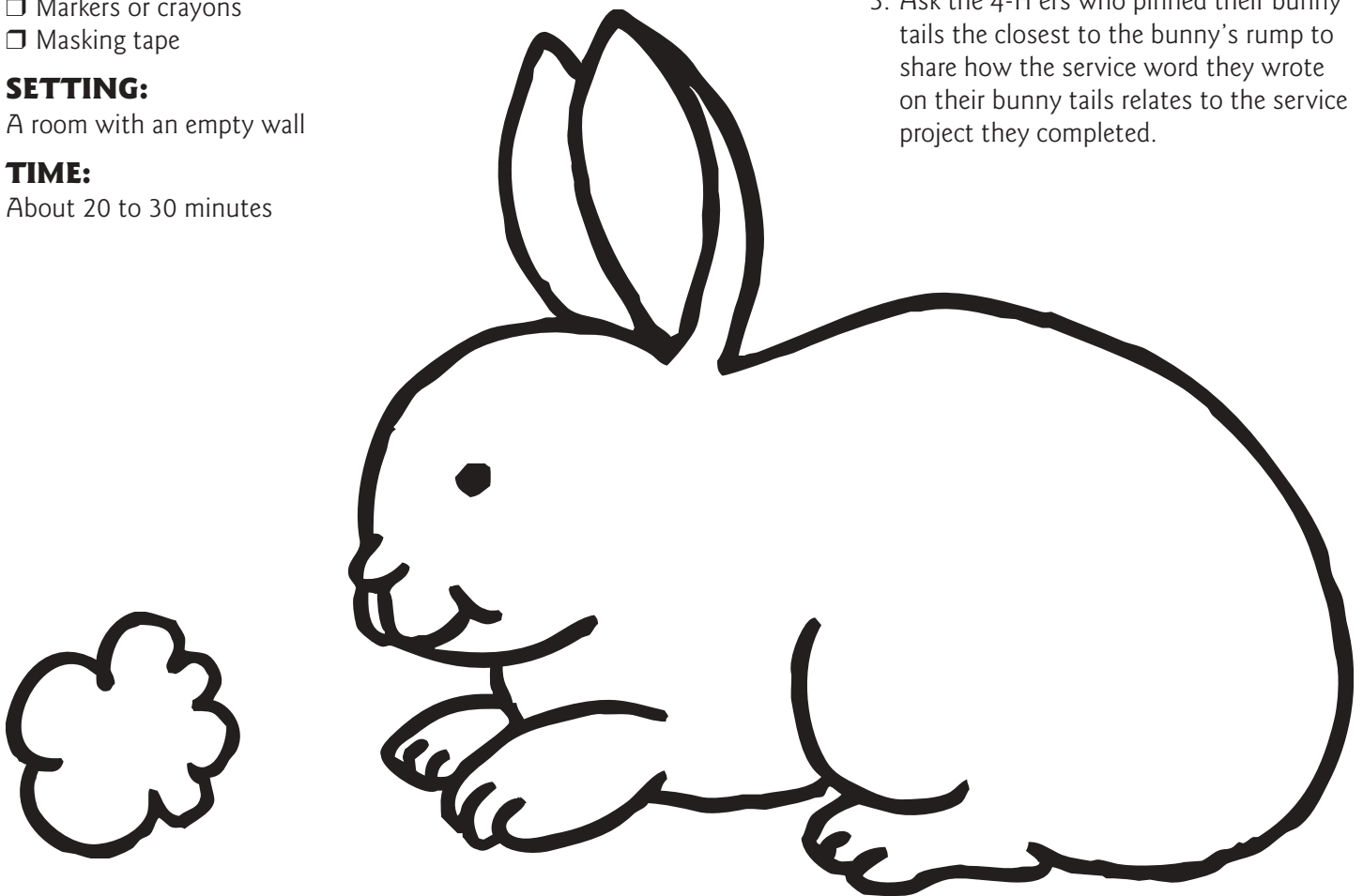
**PROCEDURE:**

**Before the meeting:**

Make a “pin the tail on the bunny” poster by enlarging the bunny pattern below. One way to do this is to create an overhead transparency of it, then project the image onto a large piece of paper taped to the wall and trace it. You can also make tail patterns by enlarging the tail pattern below onto posterboard. You will need to make several tail patterns for the children to trace.

**During the meeting:**

1. Pass out bunny tail patterns, colored paper, scissors, and pencils or pens to each person. Have the group make a bunny tail by tracing the tail pattern onto a piece of colored paper and then cut the tail out. When they’ve finished making the tails, have each person write a service word (such as serving, learning, giving, fun, teamwork) on it. Then have each child roll a short piece of masking tape with the sticky side out and stick the tape to the back of his or her bunny tail.
2. When the service word bunny tails are finished, have the group play a game of “Pin the Tail on the Bunny.” Have the children take turns being blindfolded and spun around, then trying to pin their tails on the bunny’s rump.
3. Ask the 4-H’ers who pinned their bunny tails the closest to the bunny’s rump to share how the service word they wrote on their bunny tails relates to the service project they completed.



**REFLECTION ACTIVITY (FOR 8-YEAR-OLDS):**

# What Makes a Community Service Person?

**OBJECTIVE:**

8-year-olds will understand what they've learned from community service projects.

**LIFE SKILLS:**

- Contributing to a group effort
- Critical thinking
- Public speaking

**MATERIALS:**

- Sheets of paper as long and as wide as the kids in the group (newsprint rolls or paper tablecloth rolls work well)
- Markers or crayons
- Masking tape

**SETTING:**

A large room with hard floor space

**TIME:**

About 30 to 45 minutes

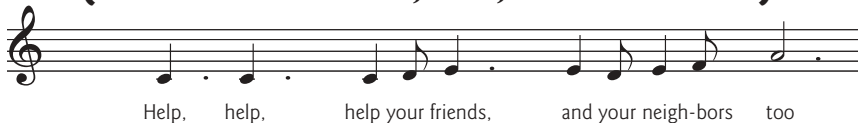
**PROCEDURE:**

1. Tell the group they're going to make community service people that list some of the skills that good team members use while completing service projects.
2. Have the group divide into pairs. Pass out two long sheets of paper and markers to each team. Tell the teams to take turns lying on their backs on the paper while the other person traces the first person's outline.
3. Next have the kids brainstorm what makes a good team member and draw or write those qualities on their people.
4. When they're done drawing or writing on the community service people, ask them to share with each other the qualities they added to their people. Encourage them to talk about which of those qualities they showed during the group's community service project. Ask them what area they think they can improve on during the group's next community service project.
5. Have the teams return to the larger group. Ask them to brainstorm community service projects they might like to do in the future as a group.
6. Tape the community service people around the room where everyone can see them easily.



## 4-H Service Song

(To the Tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat")



Lyrics by Rebecca and Cyndi Mark

Your 4-H club or group could make up your own service song to clap, sing and dance to.

What marching or hand signals can you add to your service song?



# Community Service Resources

## Children's Books Related to Service Learning

- *Light Your Candle: Another Sommer-Time Story*, by Carl Sommer, illustrated by Kennon James (Advanced Digital Information Corporation, 2000). For ages 4 to 8. An inspirational story about the difference one child can make in his or her community.
- *The Lady in the Box*, by Ann McGovern, illustrated by Marni Backer (Turtle Books, 1999). For ages 4 to 8. A timely story about two children's efforts to help a homeless woman and how they involved their family in volunteering.
- *The Lion and the Mouse: An Aesop Fable*, retold and illustrated by Bernadette Watts (North South Books, 2000). For ages 4 to 8. A beautifully illustrated version of the classic Aesop fable of the lion and the mouse.
- *How We Made the World a Better Place: Kids and Teens Write on How They Changed Their Corner of the World*, by the Staff of Fairview Press (Fairview Press, 1998). For ages 4 to 8. This book is the result of a 1997 writing contest in which kids and teens were asked to write about "how they felt about something they had done to change the world." The book will inspire other kids and teens to take a look at how they can make positive changes in their communities.

## Get Free Stuff!

Stickers, bookmarks, lesson plans, calendars and music can all be downloaded from the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation Web site at <http://www.actsofkindness.org>. This site will prepare you to celebrate Random Acts of Kindness Week in February and promote kindness in your 4-H'ers all year long. Random Acts of Kindness Week was created to inspire people to practice kindness, and by doing so, inspire others to follow their lead. Visit the site for ideas and fun ways to teach your 4-H'ers the importance of kindness.



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## Days to Center Community Service Projects Around

Your 4-H club or group can build community service projects around one or more of the following community service events:

- **National 4-H Week.** First full week in October. Contact your county 4-H staff for ideas and materials.
- **Lights on Afterschool!** Early October. <http://www.afterschoolalliance.org>
- **Make a Difference Day.** The fourth Saturday in October. <http://www.makeadifferenceday.com>
- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.** January. <http://www.mlkday.org/>
- **National Youth Service Day.** The first day of National Volunteer Week in April. <http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>



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