

# Kent County 4-H Community Service Awards

## Sponsored by the Kent County Order of the 4-H Links

In an effort to recognize Kent County 4-H members for their volunteer service in the community, the Kent County Links will award certificates to all 4-H members who have completed their respective required hours of community service work. Youth who have met this level of community service work, should complete the fillable form to provide detailed information related to the member's activities and total number of community service hours completed.

The form is due typically in mid-September, for the 4-H year that just completed, September 1-August 30.

Youth ages 11 and under (including Cloverbuds): 25 Hour Requirement

Youth 12 and up: 50 Hour Requirement

How to Apply: Complete community service log which can be found on the Kent County 4-H Website

Deadline: Typically due in September of the each 4-H year

Awards are presented at the Kent County 4-H Achievement Banquet to 4-Hers who have participated in worthy community service events.

## Prudential Spirit of Community Award

**In addition to the Kent County Links sponsored award, the Prudential Spirit of Community Award will also be presented to the top 4-Her(s) in both the middle level (grades 5-8) and high school level (grades 9-12). The community service log will be used to select these recipients; no additional submission, to be considered for this award, is required.**

There are several factors to consider when judging applications:

**Initiative:** Did the applicant initiate the activity(s) or show exceptional leadership in an existing one?

**Effort:** How much time did the activity(s) require? Did the applicant overcome any significant obstacles?

**Impact:** Were many people affected by the activity(s), or were individuals impacted in a major way?

**Personal growth:** Did the applicant gain insights or skills from the activity? Did he/she demonstrate a sound understanding of the value of service?

## Kent County 4-H Community Service Award

In an effort to recognize Kent County 4-H members for their volunteer service in the community, the Kent County Links will award certificates to all 4-H members who have completed their respective required hours of community service work. Youth should complete the fillable form (or type your activity/hours) who have met this level of community service work and provide detailed information related to the member's activities and total number of community service hours completed. This log should include service projects from September 1 of previous year through August 31 of current year. Use additional pages as necessary.

Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Location/Name of Non-Profit Organization	Activity	# of Hours	Supervisor's Signature

**Total # of Hours** \_\_\_\_\_

Leader Signature of Club: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Additional information if needed ....**

**Community Service** or Volunteer Service Hours are the compilation of time your student spends doing things for other people. If it counts for a school credit/grade, you cannot also count it as time spent volunteering, since you've been compensated. If your kids are paid for it, directly or indirectly, it does not count. Just participating in an extracurricular activity does not count. There is a difference between service and donations. **General donations,**

**collections or drives to benefit local causes will not be accepted as service hours unless you are providing the leadership to organize it or going above and beyond.**

Here are some scenarios:

If 4-Her mows your elderly neighbor's lawn, or carries in groceries or shovels their snow, it counts. If they are paid by the neighbor, it doesn't. If they mow your lawn, it does not count as that is just part of being a family and they benefit financially from that arrangement.

If they are a musician, time spent playing a benefit performance for a charity would count (as well as time to prepare and commute). Regular practice time does not count.

If they attend a 4-H meeting, it does not count. It does count if they are leading the meeting (which benefits other 4-Hers), teaching / demonstrating, organizing trips, buying supplies for other 4-Hers, spending a week as an unpaid counselor at camp, etc. In the case of a counselor, count the waking hours when they were responsible for other campers. The planning time for an event that benefits others is also appropriate to count.

Athletes do not count practice, games, or paid refereeing. Coaching a younger student, setting up conditioning practice for the team, volunteering to work a tournament, etc. would count. Mentoring or teaching younger youth would count as community service. Attending a clinic does not qualify, teaching at a clinic does.

Leading a Bible study or mentoring younger students counts, as does setting up or tearing down for an activity. Performing in a church program is not considered community service. Preparing a meal for another family in crisis would count.

Volunteer babysitting to assist a family in need counts. Watching their own younger siblings does not. Training for first aid or CPR counts; but not if it is required for a paid job.

Helping at voter registration or a polling place counts; but helping a candidate or a cause does not count

Fundraising is not acceptable to count as community service hours. If you are raising funds for your club to provide community service at a later date, count the time/service when you actually execute that activity. For example, if your club raises funds and the funds are spent on making tray favors for the nursing home at the holidays, you would count that time it took to make the favors and related activities. If your club uses the funds to go to the Pennsylvania Farm Show, you would not count that. Exchange fundraisers are not considered community service. Time selling raffle tickets is not considered community service.

Members assisting a disadvantaged person with a chore (cleaning out their garage, gardening, repairing their home, etc.) counts, but helping a family member or any able-bodied person with a chore does not count.

### **Some activities that have been submitted in the past, that do not count as community service**

- Hosting a foreign exchange student or family; or Interstate Exchange
- Helping a family member or any able-bodied person with a chore does not count; for example cleaning stalls/volunteering at a local farm or helping to haunt the local attraction is not community service...
- Garage sales – although you may **help** someone if they are holding a garage sale and all the proceeds are going to charity
- Adopt a Family at the holidays or gift buying for the holidays... these are great donations but not service.
- Teaching Health Rocks or Up for the Challenge or any other program where youth are compensated
- Running/Walking in a 5K or any other type of donation is not considered community service
- Hosting breakfasts or dinners for the purpose of fundraising as well as working snack stands and food booths, with the exception of the approved service organizations listed below

### **Acceptable examples of Community Service:**

- ✿ Coastal Cleanup or Adopt-A-Highway
- ✿ Litter Barrel and Window Display, Trim-A-Tree (be accurate with your reporting here)
- ✿ Making food /Assembling Care Packages
- ✿ Haunted Hallways – not donating candy but attending the event
- ✿ Assisting at 4-H events (Holiday Fun Day, Fav Foods, Fashion Revue, DSF, Hall of Fame, State Teen Conf., Basket Auction, etc)
- ✿ Making / Delivering Tray Favors; Making centerpieces for a non-profit
- ✿ Making Hats/Scarves; Filling Holiday Stockings; Filling Shoeboxes
- ✿ Collections, Drives if you are the leader/organizer (donations themselves are not community serv)
- ✿ Assisted and/or Handed out ribbons at a livestock or horse show
- ✿ Yard work for someone who is unable to do it for themselves
- ✿ Assist as a junior leader at the Livestock Overnighter or serve on the Livestock Advisory Committee and regularly attend planning meetings.
- ✿ Training for first aid or CPR counts
- ✿ Members assisting a disadvantaged person with a chore (cleaning out their garage, gardening, repairing their home, etc.); helping at a local mission
- ✿ Volunteer time at a 4-H display booth, not collecting funds, lead a craft, talk to passer-bys, provide demonstrations, educating public. Must be engaging. Standing at a table is not considered service.
- ✿ Vacation bible camp volunteering counts
- ✿ Ringing the Salvation Army Bell
- ✿ Volunteer time to the following approved service organizations; Ruritan, Elks, Moose, Delaware Farm Bureau, Delaware State Grange, 4-H Foundation (not local club), FFA Foundation (not local chapter), Delaware Food Bank, Relay for Life, Special Olympics or your local Firehouse. Volunteering at Fifer's IF you are educating or presenting some type of display.
- ✿ Offering a petting zoo for a non-profit event/organization or providing a nativity scene
- ✿ Helping at voter registration counts or a polling place counts
- ✿ Officer at any level (club, jr council etc): 10 hours of service per year
- ✿ A committee member: time in meetings, time spent shopping; time at event (Great Pumpkin Day, Holiday Fun Day, Favorite Foods etc.)
- ✿ Younger Member Weekend or Day Camp Counselor: Time at the event and time planning are appropriate to count
- ✿ Junior Project Leaders: Time spent teaching other 4-Hers is appropriate to count