




Community Service/Service Learning Activities Related to the Tennessee 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project

Part of the 4-H experience is Community Service. What better way of putting to use your sewing skills and/or knowledge of clothing and textiles than to make something to give to people. Here are ideas that you can do to benefit others while connecting community service to your 4-H Clothing and Textiles Project.

Note: for some of these ideas you will find the instructions in the Modules found under “Activities for 4-Hers” as noted below. You can easily find other patterns by searching on the Internet.

	
<p>Handy <u>toothbrush/toothpaste holder</u>; Easy to make out of washcloths. Have your fellow 4-Hers collect toothbrushes and toothpaste. Give to homeless shelters or similar facilities.</p>	<p><u>Tote bag or laundry bag</u>; Give to homeless shelters or organizations that work with foster children.</p>
	
<p><u>Cosmetic/Utility bag</u> made from a Ziploc® bag and Duck Tape®; Cover a gallon Ziploc® bag with Duck Tape®, fill with toiletries and give to homeless shelter. This is a great 4-H club project.</p>	<p><u>No-sew lap quilts</u> made of fleece; Give to individuals in nursing homes, assisted living, etc.</p>



No-sew grocery bag/tote bag made from a t-shirt; Donate to homeless center, give to senior citizen's center, etc.



Pieced and machine quilted Lap ; Give to young and old in need or for comfort.



Placemat purses; Give to senior living center residents, etc. (Clothing and Textiles Project Beginning Level, Activity 14)



Infinity Scarf; Give to family member or senior citizens. (Clothing and Textiles Project Beginning Level, Activity 13)



Autograph bunnies or bears; These can be made out of bright colored fabric and given to local Fire Stations, Organizations that work with foster children, etc. If you make this out of plain colored fabric, it can be given to children in hospitals along with a felt tip pen for visitors to sign. (Clothing and Textiles Project, Beginning Level, Activity 21)



Small decorative pillow; Give to organizations working with foster children, nursing homes, etc. (Clothing and Textiles Project Beginning Level, Activity 20)

	
<p><u>Apron</u> with pockets; Make and give to senior citizens, workers in shelter and/or food banks, etc.</p>	<p><u>Simple fleece scarf</u>; Donate to a homeless shelter or senior citizens. (Clothing and Textiles Project Intermediate Level, Activity 19)</p>
<p>To get involved in an international project, check out Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Outreach or a local church mission effort and make one of the following:</p>	
	
<p><u>Finger Puppets</u> made out of fleece. (Clothing and Textiles Project Intermediate Level, Activity 20)</p>	<p><u>Pillowcase dresses</u> (can use a pillowcase or fabric and ribbon). (Clothing and Textiles Project Intermediate Level, Activity 20)</p>
	
<p><u>Head band</u> with elastic back.</p>	<p><u>Scrunchies</u>. (Clothing and Textiles Project Intermediate Level, Activity 19)</p>

Other Ideas for Community Service

Giving to charity-Most communities have nonprofit organizations that give or sell clothing at a low price to those who can't afford to buy them at retail stores. By giving your clothes to these organizations, you are helping your community (in addition to cleaning out your closet). Check out Beginning Level Activity 5: "Get the Most from your Clothes: Refashion, Recycle or Swap" for more information about wardrobe planning.

Giving to children for “dress up”-In addition to giving kids a fun time, giving your clothes to a children’s center/day care/after school program, younger siblings or children in the neighborhood is another way you can contribute to your community.

Repair or alter clothing for your family and friends – as you improve your sewing skills, be sure to put them to use by repairing or altering clothes for your families and friends. It can be something as simple as sewing up a ripped seam, sewing on a missing button, hemming pants that are too long, or adding embellishments (up-fashioning) to clothes that aren’t currently being worn. Check out Beginning Level Activity 10: “Repair Your Clothes: Save Money and Look Great” and Intermediate Level Activity 18: “Refashioning Your Clothes by Adding Embellishments”.

Donate your time –

1. Work in a clothing room for a shelter or community service organization, sorting clothes.
2. Teach siblings, fellow 4-Hers, youth, or senior citizens how to make any of the above items.

