

Goal for the Month:

Discover your personal values about family, work, and your role in the community.

**Community
Service and
Learning Too!**

Ideas for Children and Youth:

Create and organize a community needs assessment for your family so that together all your family members can learn about important needs right outside your front door! Once you identify specific needs that all family members want to address with a community service project, take action and get your family moving with a community service project right away! Make community service a weekly event in your household with you leading the charge!

Have some time on your hands? Attend a community meeting such as a council session or school board meeting. Call ahead and ask to have some time to share your findings! Here are a few issue areas you might want to explore:

Safety:

Do you feel safe in your neighborhood? If you don't feel safe your neighbors probably don't feel safe, either! Ask people why they don't feel safe and create a list of all the safety issues you discover as you meet and interview your neighbors. Send your list to local government officials (mayor, police chief, sheriff, council member, etc.) along with a letter from your family asking them to take action and address these safety issues sooner rather than later!

Environment:

Does your family recycle? Are your neighbors recycling? Are your neighborhood streets strewn with litter? If your community or state is in a drought stage, are your neighbors still washing their cars and watering their lawns? These and many other environmentally oriented questions would be a great starting point to an environmental survey! Once you get a list together of all the environmental issues, do some research to find out what environmental or community organizations you might contact for assistance in addressing these issues productively.

Senior Citizens:

Go to the United States Census website ([HYPERLINK "http://www.census.org" www.census.org](http://www.census.org)) and research the percentage of senior citizens in your community. Are there a lot? Well, find out where the senior citizens hang out (senior citizen centers, community centers, library, mall, bingo hall, etc.) and go interview them! Ask them what they need and if they would like some assistance. If your family is busy, get a group of friends together and go hang out with your new senior friends! Introduce them to technology by taking them online and showing them how to use the Internet! Talk to them about their life, interests and family! Film them with a video camera and make a documentary about them!

Animals:

Animals are your neighbors, too! Even if the nearest animal shelter is miles away, there are many ways you can help the animals that live within walking distance of your house. Here are two ideas you might want to start with:

Stray Cats: Contact animal control and ask that box traps (very humane, will not hurt the cats) can be set up in areas where your family has identified populations of stray cats. Animal control should take them to a shelter where they can be spayed or neutered and put up for adoption or release in a more rural area.



Rabies: Do some research about rabies and create a pamphlet on your computer with desktop publishing software or word processing software. Highlight important information about rabies in your pamphlet, as well as dates of upcoming community rabies clinics. Go door to door, meet your neighbors and give them a pamphlet!

What makes you you?

There is more to you than you think! Our community and family often shape who we are, so by getting to know more about your community and family you can discover things about yourself that you never knew! Here are a few ideas for involving community and family members in your discovery of you this summer:

Interview all your relatives!

Interview your neighbors! Find out fun facts about where they grew up, what street they lived on, what they did for fun in their neighborhood, etc. Ask them how things are different in the community now than when they were a kid! If they grew up in your community, visit the house they lived in and see how much things have changed!

Get lost in your family photo album!

Make a new album! Dig out all those photo albums from the attic that have been collecting dust. Are there pictures of your community? Create a *That was Then, This is Now* album with your digital camera! If your family photo album doesn't have community pictures, visit the local library and make copies of them on the photocopier or download them on to a disk if they are stored on a computer. Don't have a digital camera, buy a throwaway camera and ask for the pictures to be put on disk when you get the camera developed.

Create a new album that shows what your community was like many years ago and what it is like now. Take pictures of community places (library, police station, shops, schools, etc.) and community people (your neighbors, police officers, firemen, the mayor, the librarian, the mail man, etc.) and create a scrapbook/ photo album that holds photos and contains written reflections by people you interview and meet on your photo journey. When your album is finished, share it with your family, friends and neighbors! Donate the album to the local library so that other people can learn more about the community!

Do you know what you want to be when you grow up?

Chances are you aren't quite sure! Summer is the perfect time to learn more about careers and there is no better way to do that than to volunteer! Why? When you volunteer you work side by side with all kinds of people in different careers. Who knows, in addition to the tons of careers you'll learn about at the service sites, a volunteer working with you on a project might have a fascinating career that you'll learn about! Here is a sampling of just how many different types of careers you might learn more about at some community places where kids often volunteer:

Hospital: Doctors, Nurses, Phlebotomists, Orderlies, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, X-Ray Technicians, Medical Secretaries, and more, more, more!

Food Bank/Soup Kitchen: Social Workers, Priests, Rabbis, Nutritionists, Chefs, AmeriCorps members, and more, more, more!

Senior Citizen Center: Social Workers, Occupational Therapists, Psychologists, Gerontologists, and more, more, more!

Nursing Home: Doctors, Nurses, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Gerontologists, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Nurses Aides, Social Workers, and more, more, more!

Animal Shelter: Veterinarians, Vet Technicians, Groomers, Dog Obedience Trainers, and more, more, more!

Web Quest: Citizenship

Here are some websites that will help you learn more about your personal values about family, work, school and your role in the community:

Trip #1: PBS Kids Democracy Project

<http://www.pbs.org/democracy/kids>

Click around the town and learn more about how government works and affects you everyday!

<http://members.aol.com/egyptmouse>

Trip #2: You're in Charge!

http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/games/in_charge_flash.html

Play this online game and learn more about how good citizenship starts at home!

Trip #3: Beat the Bully!

http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/games/bullies_flash.html

This online game will help you learn how to identify a bully in your community!

Trip #4: Build a Neighborhood

http://pbskids.org/rogers/R_house/build.htm#hold

Create your own neighborhood!

Trip #5: Learning to be You

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/id/citizen.html>

Explore this website and play some of the interactive games that will help you learn more about someone really special—you!

Trip #6: Liberty Kids

<http://pbskids.org/libertyskids/nowthen/index.html>

Play the game iNow & Then to learn more about what our country was like when the United



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305 Furnace Drive Suite B
Zelienople, PA 16063
724.453.0447 Fax: 724.453.8090
www.caringhabits.org

States became a country!

Trip #7: Me, My Family & Friends

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/id/me.html>

Explore many issues about friendship and family at this website! Play the interactive games and watch the animated movies!

Trip #8: Create an online story about you!

http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/body/solosports/create_story.html

Fill out this online mad lib and find out about the main characteróyou!

Trip #9: How are you helping?

<http://pbskids.org/zoom/action/letter.html>” <http://pbskids.org/zoom/action/letter.html>

Share a story about your community service project with other kids at this website!

These online citizenship games are a lot of fun and will help you learn more about what it means to be a good citizen at home, in school and in your community:

<http://www.timeforcitizenship.com/kids/cw.asp>

<http://www.timeforcitizenship.com/kids/cw2.asp>”

<http://www.worldalmanacforkids.com/fun-games/quiz1.html>

http://pbskids.org/itsmylife/games/middleschool_flash.html