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VIRGINIA 4-H COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

(Including Home Grounds Improvement)

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VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
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A. HOME GROUNDS IMPROVEMENT

Required: (For each of the 3 years continue the work started and add other choices listed on the following sheets)

1. Know Virginia's state flower (tree).
 - a. Common name _____
 - b. Usual flower color _____
 - c. Name other dogwood flower colors _____
 - d. Season of the year when flowers normally bloom _____
 - e. Does the tree have fruit? _____ Color _____ When _____
 - f. How far is it from your house to the closest state flower? _____
 - g. Why do you think the state flower (tree) _____ was selected for Virginia? _____
Name _____

Do at least 2 of the following (check only the ones completed and fill in the blanks):

2. Plan, plant, and care for a flower border. Use at least 2 different kinds or types of annuals.

RECORD OF ANNUALS GROWN:

Name	Date planted	Date of first flower	Color of flowers
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Size of the flower border: Length of the flower border: _____
 Length _____, Width _____. Location of flower border in the yard? _____
 Three better methods I learned:
 (1) _____,
 (2) _____,
 and (3) _____.

3. Learn about growing house plants. Start from seed and grow in a pot an orange, lemon, or grapefruit, or grow an avacado in a jar of water.

For orange, lemon or grapefruit seed:

- a. Which of the 3 did you plant? _____
- b. Describe the soil mixture used _____
- c. What kind of pot was used? _____
- d. What was the date you first saw growth from the seed? _____
- e. How many days was this after the seed was planted? _____
- f. Measure and record the height of the plant from the date of planting the seed: 1 month _____ inches; 2 months _____ inches; 3 months _____ inches; 4 months _____ inches; through 12 months.
- g. List 3 things learned:
 - (1) _____,
 - (2) _____,
 - (3) _____.

For avacado:

- a. How deep was the jar used? _____
- b. What was the planting date? _____
- c. Top growth? _____
- d. Root growth? _____
- e. How many days was this after the seed was planted? _____
- f. Measure and record the height of the plant and length of the roots from the date of planting the seed: 1 month, top _____ roots; 2 months, top _____ roots; 3 months, top _____ roots; through 12 months.
- g. List 3 things learned:
 - (1) _____,
 - (2) _____,
 - (3) _____.

4. Get acquainted with trees and shrubs. Learn the common names and some general information about those growing in your yard. (Do not include annuals, bulbs, perennials, etc.)

- a. Number of trees: _____ . Names: _____
- b. Number of shrubs: _____ . Names: _____
- c. Number of vines: _____ . Names: _____
- d. List 3 things of interest you noticed about the plants:
 - (1) _____,
 - (2) _____,
 - (3) _____.

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5. Groom the home grounds. Assist with clean-up, repair, and general care of the yard.

What did you do or help do for yard clean-up? (List the items below):

- a. What is the size of your yard: Length ___ feet; Width ___ feet.
b. What did you do with the leaves after they were raked? _____
c. How many times did you mow or help mow the lawn? _____
d. Did you help weed the flower and shrub beds? _____. How?
_____. How many times? _____
e. Was mulch used in the plant beds? _____. What kind? _____
f. Was fertilizer used on the lawn or around the plants? _____
What kind? _____
g. List 3 things you learned about better care of plants, lawns,
and the yard:
(1) _____,
(2) _____,
(3) _____.

6. Collect information about indoor and outdoor flowers, including wild flowers. Prepare a notebook or scrap book of ideas for growing and using flowers.

- a. What is the title or name of your scrapbook? _____
b. Did you prepare a table of contents? _____
c. Name 3 sources from which you got information:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
d. How many pages did your scrapbook have? _____. What were they?

e. Did you use any pictures of your own plants? _____. What
were they? _____
f. List at least 5 different subjects included in your scrapbook:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
(4) _____
(5) _____
g. List 3 things you learned:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

7. Have a better lawn. Help improve and care for the home lawn. What size is your lawn? Length _____; Width _____.
What kind of grass? _____.

- a. How many times did you mow or help mow the lawn? _____
- b. Was fertilizer used on the lawn? _____. What kind?

- c. How was it applied? _____
- d. When was it applied? _____
- e. Was any filling or grading done? _____
- f. Was anything done to control weeds? _____
- g. What was used or done? _____
- h. List 3 things you learned about lawns and their care:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

- 8. Build a bird house or bird feeder for a suitable location in or near your home grounds.
 - a. For what kind of birds did you build or help build a house?

 - b. Where did you get the plans for your bird house or feeder?

 - c. Describe the location (from your house) of your bird house or feeder. _____
 - d. Why was this location selected? _____
 - e. Name the birds attracted to your bird house or feeder _____
 - f. What kind of feed was used in your feeder? _____
 - g. List 3 things of interest you learned or observed about birds:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

- 9. Prepare and present a talk or demonstration on Home Grounds Improvement.
 - a. What was the title and subject of your talk or demonstration?

 - b. Where did you get the information for your talk? _____
 - c. How many times did you talk or demonstrate before a group or groups? _____
 - d. Name the group or groups. _____
 - e. List 3 things you learned about home grounds improvement and/or presenting a talk or demonstration:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

B. COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT - FOR GROUP AND INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES

Assist or lead in one or more of the following suggested activities:

1. "Clean up" and "fix up" a special area (school grounds, park, roadside area, community center, and others).

Name of the project: _____
Location: _____
Who was the supervisor? _____
What kind of improvements were made? _____
How many 4-H Club members participated? _____
Did members of other organizations help? _____
Name the organizations represented: _____
How many times did the group work? _____
What was your assignment? _____
What are the future plans for such projects? _____
Why did you and the group work on the project? _____

2. Litter control program.

Name of the project: _____
Location: _____
Who was the supervisor? _____
What did the group do? _____
Is the project completed? _____
How many 4-H Club members participated? _____
List other organizations and individuals helping with the project:

What did you do? _____
Why do you think litter should be controlled? _____

3. Landscape improvements for a special area.

Name of the project: _____
Location: _____
What was done? _____
Is more to be done? _____ . When? _____

Who did the supervising? _____
Was a plan used? _____
How many plants were planted? _____
Who is to take care of the project? _____
List 3 things you learned from the project:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

4. Visit with your family or group, a place of historical or scenic interest.

Name of place visited? _____
State _____, City _____
Who was with you: Family _____, Group _____
Why was the place of interest? _____
How long did you visit the area? _____
Did you want to visit the area again? _____
Describe 3 things that interested or impressed you most:
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

5. Go on an organized tour of home grounds.

How many grounds were visited? _____
Who was the tour leader? _____
How many homes visited were in a town or city? _____
List for each home grounds, one item that interested you most:

6. A survey of club members' mailboxes (in the country) and/or street markers and house numbers (in a town or city).

Number of club members' mailboxes inspected? _____
Number needing a better support? _____
Number needing names painted? _____
Number of attractive boxes and surroundings? _____
Number of club members' streets not clearly marked? _____
Number of club members' homes with house numbers not clearly marked? _____
What does your group plan to do about the survey information?

