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BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

Record Book 81  
Unit III

# Virginia 4-H Community Improvement

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club Year \_\_\_\_\_

Years in Club Work \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Leader's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Extension Agent's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, and September 30, 1977, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. W. R. Van Dresser, Dean, Extension Division, Cooperative Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061; M. C. Harding, Sr., Administrator, 1890 Extension Program, Virginia State University, Petersburg, Virginia 23803.

VIRGINIA 4-H COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

(INCLUDING THE HOME GROUNDS)

J C Garrett

To the 4-H Club Member:

This program area of nationwide concern is planned to encourage you to do a better job of improving your home grounds, your community, and your appreciation for better surroundings in general. While being a part of such worthwhile interests, you have the opportunity to achieve much through your individual efforts and as a member of a group of interested young citizens.

Seek the advice and guidance of others such as your parents, your 4-H leaders, your extension agents, and the many other people who are anxious to be helpful. Use your experience and training to assist and encourage younger 4-H members and other youth to become more interested in having better surroundings. Make the most of your opportunities to grow individually while developing into a better citizen for serving your community.

Your local 4-H Club can take the lead in encouraging other local young people (and adults) to become interested in improving the appearance of the community. Ask your parents, adult leaders, extension agents, professional workers, leaders in organizations, and others for ideas, guidance and support for worthwhile home and community improvement activities. Younger boys and girls will be looking to you for inspiration and guidance through your accomplishments. Fulfill their expectations through the setting of good examples!

Note: At the beginning and during the progress of projects or activities, 4-H Club members are urged to make good photographs for possible use in publicity, promotion, records, and other uses. Don't put it off! Start with "before" pictures--then record the improvements with "after" pictures as changes are made.

The project activity requirements include Individual and Group activities. Also, the subject matter involves:

- a. The Home Grounds and related interests (landscape improvements, flowers, lawns, care of plants, etc.)
- b. Community Beautification. Not only the beautification but such things as removing ugliness and efforts to improve the attitudes of people.

## PROJECT REQUIREMENTS:

Be sure to review and understand the complete requirements.

Complete each year, at least 1 of the activities listed under Required and at least 2 of the activities listed under Optional.

For each project year--indicate to the left of the activity number in your Record Book--the project year for the work performed.

### A. COMMUNITY AND HOME GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

Required: (Home Grounds)

1. Develop, with assistance, a landscape plan for your home grounds. Prepare 3 separate step plans to scale. Fold all plans so they can be fastened neatly within the Record Book.

- a. Map or plot of existing conditions. Graph paper or plain drawing paper may be used. Use a definite scale such as 1" = 10'; 1" = 8'; or 1" = 20', etc. See 4-H Community Beautification, Record Book 22, Unit 2, for additional instructions.
- b. Divide the yard area on the plot into 3 general areas: the Approach or Public area; the Service Area, and the Private Area. See Extension Publication 238 "Design of the Home Grounds" for general suggestions. For this step--you may use tracing paper over the plot for drawing in the area divisions. Use free-flowing lines in designing the areas. Usually, several sketches are necessary before an acceptable lay-out is produced.
- c. Develop a general landscape plan. Again, you are urged to refer to Extension Publication 238, "Design of the Home Grounds," and also to other references such as books, magazine articles, and people who are knowledgeable in the fundamentals of landscape design.

Include:

1. Existing features from the plot to scale.
2. Indication of directions (North, South, East, West). Draw a symbol or place the correct direction on each margin of the plan.
3. Scale used. (Example: 1" = 10')
4. Location of all features and plants (indicate whether existing or added). Use a set of plant symbols to show different types of plants and features.
5. Plant list with key numbers. Use the numbers at the plant locations instead of writing the name of each plant at each location.
6. Your name, county, address in lower right corner of the plan.

2. Develop (with assistance) a Landscape Plan for a Public or Semi-public Area. (Public buildings; church; roadside park; others).

- a. Follow the same general steps and procedure outlined under 1, Required (Home Grounds). Suggested additional references: Extension Circular 824, "Attractive Driveway Entrances", Publication 125, "Landscaping Slopes", Bulletin 220, "Landscaping Church Grounds"; and other references and advice.

3. Conduct an Intensive Survey of Your Community. Purpose of the survey: to help to recognize the existing beauty, assets, and interests and also to discover and emphasize improvement needs.

General Instructions:

- a. Use Extension Publication 87, "How Does Your Community Rate?" for making the survey.
- b. Involve at least 2 individuals (adults or youth) to independently make surveys of the same area. Average the results of each score for the final score. Include the final average score sheet attached in the Record Book.
- c. Include a map indicating the total area included in the survey.
- d. Prepare a brief summary, based on the survey, of what you think should be included in your local community improvement program.
  1. Listing of items in a priority order.
  2. Adult organizations that could be involved.
  3. Youth organizations that could be involved.
  4. How local government (county, city, town, etc.) could be involved.
  5. Involvement of state government groups (highway, forestry, park, etc.).
  6. Role of educational groups.
  7. Others to be involved.

4. Employment in Home or Community Beautification or related work. Employment should be for the equivalent of two weeks or more. Examples: Public grounds; parks; highway; commercial nursery or florist; home grounds; other.

- a. Type of employment: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Employer: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Length of time (days, weeks, hours, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Your duties: \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Briefly, what did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- f. What type of professional training would be needed to manage and supervise the work:

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- g. Are you interested in such related work as a career? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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Optional Activities: (Do at least one in addition to the Required)

5. Participate in a special training session for Home and for Community Beautification.

- a. Name of the training session \_\_\_\_\_

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- b. Who sponsored the session \_\_\_\_\_

- c. What was the main topic? \_\_\_\_\_

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- d. How interesting was the information? Check:

Very interesting \_\_\_\_\_, medium \_\_\_\_\_, not interesting \_\_\_\_\_,  
boring \_\_\_\_\_.

- e. How do you expect to use the information? \_\_\_\_\_

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- f. Would you like more training or information? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Prepare a Scrapbook or Notebook of Home Grounds and/or Community Improvement Ideas. (If a scrapbook was started at another time, develop or re-work it in more detail) Include: Cover for 8½ x 11" sheets or regular scrapbook sheets. Attach the sheets in the cover. Use the cover title: "Home Grounds and/or Community Beautification Ideas". In the lower right corner of the cover have your name, county, address, age, name of your 4-H Club, years of club work.

Prepare an index of subjects. Include 1 to 3 pictures of your home grounds.

Write a one-page summary of your community home grounds improvement experiences and views (what was done cooperation, future plans, what you learned, etc.)

7. Plan, Plant, and Care for a Flower Bed or Border. Use at least 3 different annuals, or 3 perennials, or 3 bulb plants, or a combination.

Make a sketch of your flower bed or border to scale (indicate scale used). Area size of the planting space to be 10 square feet or more.

Show: Length and width; arrangement of flowers by names; colors, height. (Attach the sketch to this report and label Flower Border)

Background (fence, plants, house, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

When were flowers planted? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Special uses of flowers: \_\_\_\_\_

Pest problems: \_\_\_\_\_

Control used for pests: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of times cultivated or hoed: \_\_\_\_\_

Were flowers used for any special purpose or occasion? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Visit a Plant Nursery, Florist Shop, or Arboretum. Write a brief account of what you saw and learned.

Include: Name and location of place or places visited: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Type of establishment: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of training needed to manage the establishment: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your impressions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Prune a Flowering or Evergreen Shrub, Using Recommended Methods.

Name of plant or plants: \_\_\_\_\_

When did you prune it? \_\_\_\_\_

Why did you prune it? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did you get pruning information? \_\_\_\_\_

What did you learn? \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like additional training? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Prepare a Photographic Story of Home Grounds or Community Beautification Accomplishments or a Set of Color Slides with a Narrative.

You may use the entire grounds area for the story or parts of it. Make each pair of "before" and "after" pictures from the same location. Use not more than 8 pictures mounted on heavy paper and fastened in the record book. Carefully plan the photographs so that a minimum of words are needed to help tell the story. Use a descriptive, imaginative title for the picture story. If slides are made, arrange them in a numbered order, place in a durable container, include a script.

11. Make a Pressed Leaf and/or Flower Collection. Review Extension Circular 795, "Pressing Leaves and Flowers."

After the plant specimens are prepared, fasten them in a folder or scrapbook. On the front cover, use a descriptive title. In the lower right corner of the cover include: Your name, county, address, age, name of your 4-H Club, and years of 4-H Club work. Prepare and include an index page. Include a minimum of 10 plants. For each plant, prepare the following information:

Common name: \_\_\_\_\_

Where collected: \_\_\_\_\_

Date collected: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it a native plant? \_\_\_\_\_

Type: (Tree, shrub, vine, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Designate whether: Narrow leaf evergreen, broad-leaf evergreen, deciduous, other: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of natural growing conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



12. Clean-up and/or Litter Control Activity or Campaign for a Public or Special Area.

Special Note: Be sure, if possible, that action photographs are made during the planning and action phases of the program. Also, be sure that accurate records are kept of meeting dates, number of participants, etc.

Describe the area dealt with \_\_\_\_\_

Clean up \_\_\_\_\_, litter control \_\_\_\_\_, both \_\_\_\_\_

Number of 4-H Club members involved \_\_\_\_\_

Number of other youth organizations represented and numbers of members \_\_\_\_\_

How many 4-H adult leaders were involved \_\_\_\_\_

Other leaders \_\_\_\_\_

Date of first planning meeting \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly, what happened? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the activity was successful and worthwhile? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the activity to be continued or repeated? \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss briefly \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

13. Present a Demonstration or Talk on Community or Home Grounds Beautification to an Organized Group or for a Special Occassion.

Some suggested topics:

Landscape Planning for Climate Control, Screening Ugliness, Noise Control, etc.

Remove Ugliness from Your Community

Add Beauty to Your Community

Making a Plot to Scale

Are Adults Setting Good Community Examples?

How Tourists View the Community

Developing a Landscape Plan

Beauty and Economic Values

Pruning Plants with a Purpose

Restoring and Preserving Historic Sites and Places

Transplanting Trees and Shrubs

How to Organize and Conduct a Clean-Up Campaign

Community Pollution Problems

Litter Control Costs

Vandalism and the Community

You can think of many other worthwhile topics for demonstrations or illustrated lectures. Emphasis should be placed on such important factors as conditions for more enjoyable living, economic values, citizenship, careers, and others. Employ the use of such tools as visuals or maps, charts, photographs, models, drawings, samples, and other aids.

14. Help Develop a Program for Restoring a Historical Place of Interest in Your Area or Community.

Virginia has a rich background of historical interest to be found in every community. If all areas are not of a state or national acclaim type, they can have a local historical importance. Such interests might include: churches, cemeteries, public or semi-public buildings, special trees or plants, old mills and mill ponds, waterways, war relics or areas, covered bridges, and many others.

Included in the organized information:

Name of the site, place, or article \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of importance \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it considered to be of special interest? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the source of information? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How are you impressed by the place, site, or article of interest?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Note: Some good sources of background information are elderly residents of an area. Some direct comments or quotations should be used, when possible, in the report. Selected photographs (copies of prints) or original pictures of places and articles should be used when possible.

15. Visit, with a Group, a Place of Recognized Historical Interest, Natural Beauty, or Landscape Design.

Write a brief report (250 to 500 words) about your observations and what you learned. Include:

Why the particular site was visited? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is it considered outstanding? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the high points of interest? \_\_\_\_\_

Who of historic importance was involved? \_\_\_\_\_

How did it affect you as to outlook, appreciation, changing of opinions?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to visit the area again? \_\_\_\_\_

Make a list of state and/or national parks, historic places, or forest recreation areas in your county or city. For each listing, give the source of information and write a paragraph statement describing the area, its use, and importance.

16. The Environmental Landscape.

Develop or assist with the development of a plan and/or model for such conditions as: Energy Conservation, Wind Control, Heat Modification, Noise Control, etc.

17. Personal Initiative Activities.

You are encouraged to use your initiative and imagination for participating in other related activities than those listed in this Record Book. Review your ideas with your leaders and extension agents. They will be glad to help advise you on individual projects.

Sources of Assistance and Helpful Information:

Ask your local Cooperative Extension Service agents for ideas, suggestions, and program references. They can also help guide you to other sources of relative information.

The knowledge and experience you have attained in the Virginia 4-H Community Beautification program should help equip you to be a better "Crusader" for protecting and improving our surroundings. Too, hopefully, you have discovered some career opportunities in the diversified professional and technical areas of environmental improvement. In such areas -- multitudes of workers are and will be needed in the fields of education, commercial endeavor, and governmental employment. Explore the career possibilities for an opportunity for you to contribute to the well-being of our country.

