COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK
IN
AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
State College of Washington
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture
Cooperating

COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE
Old Court House
Yakima, Washington

Extension Service
County Agent Work
Pullman, Washington

4-H HOME EFFICIENCY WORK CLUB

(A variation of the regular Home Efficiency Project prepared by Esther Pond, Home Management Specialist)

PURPOSE

To give 4-H Club girls sufficient training in common household tasks so that they can go as a group or as individuals into the homes of their neighbors and do one or more jobs. Such jobs might be: taking care of children, changing bed linen, making beds, washing dishes, sweeping and dusting, waxing floors, washing woodwork, or keeping accounts.

With added activities for the average homemaker during the wartime period and with a scarcity of trained help available, 4-H Club members can give a valuable service through this Work Club.

REQUIREMENTS

(1) Girls enrolled in this home efficiency work project will learn correct methods of doing common household tasks, and practice those methods at home before trying to do them for others.

(2) Each member will assist the group in doing work for a homemaker at least six times, and she must do at least six different tasks, putting in not less than 12 hours of work altogether.

(3) Attend at least 10 4-H Club meetings.

(4) Put on at least one demonstration at a 4-H Club meeting and one at a public meeting.
(5) Turn in a 4-H Home Efficiency record book showing accomplishments of
the project—indicating jobs done for neighbors on page 3 (Tasks I
Have Done).

PROCEDURE

Before a club begins this project the 4-H "Work" Club members should:

(1) Ascertain whether or not there will be a need for such a club in their
community and whether the housewives will use them after they have
had their training.

(2) Understand that if they undertake this project they must learn to do
their household tasks well so that they keep their standards of work
high and thus create a demand for their work.

(3) Determine how much free time each girl will have to do these house-
hold tasks for other homemakers.

(4) Decide whether they will offer their services free or make a charge
for it. Twenty-five cents an hour is a reasonable charge for each
girl if she works efficiently and knows how to do her job well.
Decide who will get the money—the girl who does the job or the club.

When club members are trained and the club is ready to offer their services
to the community:

(1) They will need to solicit the help of their local newspaper, their
parents, the grange, Fema Bureau, Home Economics Clubs, P.T.A., and
perhaps the Chamber of Commerce or any group of people who will give
them publicity.

(2) They will also need to contact the women of the community personally
to sell them on the idea that they have a service to give.

(3) Contact local employment office for possibilities for jobs.

(4) All appointments for the group to work must be made through the 4-H
Club leader. She should keep a written schedule so there are no
mistakes or misunderstandings.

(a) If the leader and girls agree that the club is to wash
windows at Mrs. Brown's home on Saturday, November 14,
the club members must arrive promptly at the time
designated by Mrs. Brown.

(b) They should get to work immediately, making as little
confusion in her house as possible. Be business-like.

(5) The club leader will need to arrange ahead of time with Mrs. Brown
as to whether the equipment and cleaning cloths will be furnished
by Mrs. Brown or the club members.

(6) The leader will be wise if she will explain to Mrs. Brown the method
which the 4-H Work Club will use.
It will be necessary for the leader to organize work units with the club for each situation. Part of the group might do one job while part are doing another. Or the homemaker may have only one job to be done and this can best be done by a few members or even one.

So that each girl takes the responsibility of doing all of the common household tasks sometime during the year instead of doing just one job over and over again, the leader should make a plan for the season seeing that each girl gets an opportunity to try out her training on each job at least once.

REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR THIS PROJECT

1. Home Efficiency Working Guide (4-H Circular 56)
2. Personal Financial Record (4-H Circular 44)
3. Time and Motion Savers (Mimeograph H. M. 30)
4. Time Savers in Meal Preparation (H. M. 20)
5. House Cleaning Methods (Extension Bulletin 221)
6. Outwitting Fatigue (Extension Bulletin 268)
7. Efficient Laundry Methods (Extension Bulletin 243)
8. Procedure in Washing Dishes (Mimeograph H. M. 50)
9. Procedure in Making a Bed (Mimeograph H. M. 91)
10. Procedure in Ironing a Shirt (Mimeograph H. M. 87)
11. Child Management (Children's Bureau Publication 143)
12. The Child from One to Six (Children's Bureau Publication 30)
13. Money Management for Boys and Girls (Mimeograph H. M. 90)
14. Step by Step in Everyday Tasks (Extension Bulletin)
15. Home Efficiency Record Book