

Marks Remarks by Mark Rowen Lincoln County Educator 2-26-09

Teens as Volunteers. What a remarkable thought. With the pace of life today, is there time for a teen to volunteer? The best time to start volunteering if you are a teen is ...NOW. There are a number of small items a teen can do, just around home or in their own neighborhood to become a great volunteer asset. Shoveling the snow on the neighbor's sidewalk is a great volunteer idea for a teen. With the summer season there is raking leaves, mowing the lawn, weeding the garden, all these are ideas for teen volunteers.

Parents should encourage teens to do volunteer work in the community. It creates a sense of belonging, but also lets teens know their worth to the community. If a group of teens clean the park, plants flowers, trims bushes along a bicycle path, visit the rest home or performs other community projects, these teens now feel a sense of contribution and pride in the community.

There are a number of organizations with community service as a major portion of their focus. No matter the group, community service creates good citizens, not just as teens but adults also.

Volunteer as an adult, it's good for you; it's good for the community, more importantly, a teen may be watching and follow your lead.

4-H has a focus at the club level on community. The clubs are encouraged to volunteer and adapt community projects, using these projects to be visible in communities and encouraging members to be active. 4-H is the largest out-of-school youth organization in the world. If you are interested in joining a 4-H club or becoming an adult 4-H volunteer contact the Lincoln County Extension Service at 764-2756.