



Making the Character Connection with...

Arts and Crafts

Arts & Crafts
Clothing
Crochet
Knitting
Quilting

Being a person of good character means you follow the Six Pillars of Character_{SM} every day. Learning a craft requires you to show that you are responsible enough to get your projects completed on time and that you respect the craft enough to learn all of the required skills to make your projects the best they can be. You can show you care for others by giving them your finished craft as a present or you can demonstrate good citizenship when you donate your crafts to local organizations. Each time you give of yourself and your talents to others you show that you are a person of good character. You may have the opportunity to enter your project in a craft show or in fashion review. It is your responsibility to understand the rules and make sure you follow them and accept the judge's rulings (Responsibility, Fairness). As you work through your project think of these and other ways you can share what you learn in your Arts and Crafts project with others.

Projects in this Connection have been grouped because they have related information. There may not be an activity for every project listed however at least one of the activities can be adapted for each project. Be creative; let this be a stepping stone for many ways of teaching character.

This Character Connection contains:

- **Explanation of the Six Pillars of Character.**
- **Explanation of how the Six Pillars of Character relate to the Arts and Crafts projects.**
- **Activities suggesting how to demonstrate good character while enhancing your knowledge of Arts and Crafts.**
- **Questions to help you think of other ways to demonstrate good character in everyday life.**

Character Connection: Arts and Crafts

Trustworthiness	Responsibility	Caring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Always take credit for the projects you've completed ✓ Be honest with friends, project leaders and judges ✓ Be on time to activities so everyone can start on time ✓ Pay for what you order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clean up your workspaces; don't leave work for others to do ✓ Be a good representative of yourself and your 4-H club when working in craft shops or stores ✓ Pay your project leader on time if they order materials for you 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Show others you care by quilting, crocheting, knitting, sewing or crafting something for someone special ✓ Use your craft for good, find a place to donate what you've made ✓ Help friends when they need an extra hand
Respect	Fairness	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Treat everyone's projects the way you want them to treat your projects ✓ Show appreciation to those who help you complete your projects ✓ Be careful when working around other's fragile items ✓ Only judge others on the merit of their project not on your opinions of what they have made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Share your materials with other 4-Hers ✓ Only spend the amount of money that you've agreed to spend on your projects ✓ Always make sure you have signed up for the right skill level for your projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Always complete your projects to the best of your abilities and according to the project specifications ✓ Share project materials and instructions with your peers ✓ Teach others what you know ✓ Take the initiative to learn something extra about what you're making

Character Connection: Arts and Crafts

Activity: Hats and Blankets for Hospitalized Children

DO:

Young patients who suffer from life threatening diseases will be all smiles when they are given a hat or blanket designed and made just for them. The hat pattern doesn't have to be elaborate, in fact, look for something that even beginning sewers can make. Many 4-H'ers make the soft tied lap blankets. The important thing is that the hat or blanket is decorated with bright colored ribbons, decals and pom poms and there is a note attached written by a 4-H member wishing them well. Decide on a good time to get your group together for an all day Blankets and Hats-a-thon. Hang fliers in community schools, offices and government buildings to get the entire community involved. Set a goal for your workshop to give everyone something to work towards. When you complete your goal take your blankets and hats to a local hospital to give them to young people your age. If your local hospital allows, have all of their young patients come to a common location to pick out their hats and meet you, the young people who cared enough to create a hat for them.

REFLECT:

1. How does it make you feel to know you are doing something positive for someone who is sick?
2. How do you think it makes the recipients of your hats feel to know that someone their age has taken some time out of their life to help them?
3. What did you notice about your community as you were working together?
4. Brainstorm with your 4-H club other ways your community can come together to do something nice for others.

APPLY:

Helping others, particularly those who are sick or having a difficult time can make us feel good about the skills we have to offer. Next time you have a chance to help someone else, think about how you can get your entire community involved. Sometimes all it takes to let someone know you care about them is putting in a little effort and making something unique and special. Gestures of caring do not have to be as big as creating hundreds of blankets and hats. Next time you notice someone having a bad day, think of something you can do to brighten their day.

Expand on this Activity: If your community doesn't have a hospital close, send your hats and blankets to a large children's hospital. Also try crocheting and knitting scarves and hats that can serve as birthday gifts for local newborns.



Character Connection: Arts and Crafts

Activity: Painting Patriotism

DO:

As a person of character you know the importance of saluting those who have served our country in many ways. Find a photograph of someone you know that has served our country in some capacity. If you can't think of anyone, try searching the internet for a picture of someone who served in the Civil War or worked towards Women's Rights. Take this picture and plan out a way to salute their patriotism. Maybe you will use your painting skills to create a portrait of the person from the picture you found. create something in Red, White and Blue and write a creative story or poem to compliment your craft. You might even want to collect more pictures and information about the person and create a personalized scrap book for them. Whatever you choose to create, remember the importance of being respectful of the people who have served.

After finishing your craft take your creations to your local VFW hall or Veterans hospital. Share your works with the people who have served and tell them how grateful you are for their service. Make sure you share your work with the person you choose, if they are a family or community member.

REFLECT:

1. Have you ever thought about those people who serve our country before? What do you think about these people?
2. Has there ever been a time you have been able to use your craft skills to create something for someone special in your life? How did that make you feel?
3. How do you think it makes others feel when you show respect for what they have done?
4. How does it make you feel when someone thanks you for doing something nice? Does this make you want to express your gratitude more often? Why or Why Not?

APPLY:

Showing our appreciation to those people who have helped our country shows that we understand the importance of gratitude and service to our country. When we show that we respect and honor those who have made our country what it is we display traits of good character. When you have the opportunity to show respect for someone who has demonstrated superior citizenship it helps you to learn more about yourself. Remember that a person of good character understands their personal values and strives to make sure you honor those who do something we value. Next time you have the opportunity to show respect and appreciation for someone, think of a creative way to show them you put thought and effort into your act of appreciation.



Character Connection: Arts and Crafts

Activity: Crafting for Charity

DO:

Plan a craft fair at a community festival. Join with other members of your county Arts and Crafts projects to make crafts to sell for charity. Have each member of your county's Arts and Crafts project choose their favorite craft to make. Each member should make something different so there are more crafts for your customers to choose from. Make at least 10 of your chosen craft. As a group decide what charity you would most like to donate your profits to. Think about organizations that have helped you or helped people in your community. Contact this charity and let them know your plans to set up a craft booth to raise money to donate. Use your creativity to make fliers to hand out at 4-H club meetings and to hang up around your community. Make sure your fliers say what kinds of crafts you will be selling and that all profits from the sale are going to charity.

Set up a booth at a local festival or fair. Have each 4-Her display their crafts and price them according to what they are worth. Take turns working at the booth selling your crafts. Make sure you talk with each person that buys a craft and thank them for helping your charity. At the end of the fair count your money and donate it to your charity.

REFLECT:

1. Have you ever donated to charity before? If yes, when and why did you donate?
2. How do you feel about selling your crafts? Are you proud, happy, sad, uneasy?
3. What was most difficult about planning your craft fair? What was the easiest?
4. What kinds of things do you think the money you donated will help the charity do?
How does this make you feel?

APPLY:

Craft projects are all unique and serve different purposes. Some crafts are used to brighten people's days, some serve as useful household items, and others help us do everyday tasks. No matter the purpose of the items you sold at your fair, each one served the purpose of raising money to help a charity in your community. By donating the money you raised you showed that you care about your community. You also showed that you are dependable by fulfilling your promise to the charity. Each time you plan to donate money, time or goods to a charity it is your responsibility to make good on your promises. Next time you decide you want to help out, remember that it is a big responsibility, but it also has a huge pay-back.



Character Connection: Arts and Crafts

Activity: Scrap-Mania

DO:

Scrapbooking has become one of the most popular past times for crafters and one of the most popular 4-H Arts and Crafts projects. As a scrapbooker you can preserve memories by putting pictures, journaling and keepsakes into a book that tells the story of an event. Use your scrapbooking skills to create a keepsake for your parents, friends or project leader. Choose a person that is very special to you, or has helped you with your 4-H projects. Talk to this person to find out if there is an event they would like scrapbooked, or something else they would like your talents for. If they already have their memories collected and scrapbooked offer to make them cards for special events, picture frames, or scrapbook kits for future creations.

Once you've decided on a person and an event, set up an interview to find out more about their memories, pictures and keepsakes. Ask them questions about the people in the pictures, what they were doing and why it was so special. This personal interview will help you create a more complete scrapbook and it will give you some ideas about themes you can use.

Finally, create a scrapbook for this special person. Use their pictures and memories and your own ideas to scrap something unique and special. On the last page of your book create a page from you to this person. You may want to include pictures of you together or keepsakes of things you've done together. Use this page as a way to thank the person for helping you out and being such a special person in your life.

REFLECT:

1. How did you choose your special person?
2. Was there anything you learned from your interview that you didn't know? Did you learn anything interesting or that made you closer to this person?
3. How do you think it made your friend/family feel to know you made something special for them?
4. How do you think they felt when they opened the book to the special page you made for them?
5. How does it make you feel when someone thanks you for doing something nice? Does this make you want to express your gratitude more often? Why or Why Not?

APPLY:

Using your talents to create keepsakes for others shows that you care enough about them to want them to always have memories of special times in their lives. Every special event is important, and by scrapbooking you help people remember the details and the feelings they had on these days. Being a caring individual is important because people feel appreciated around you and will be more willing to give of themselves. Next time someone does something nice for you use your talents to thank them. Sometimes we think we can't really show appreciation because we don't know how to or we are too young. Remember, everyone appreciates being thanked and knowing they are cared for.

