



Making the Character Connection with...

Industrial Technology

Electricity
Small Engines
Welding
Woodworking

Being a person of good character means you try your best to follow the Six Pillars of Character_{SM} every day. As you work through your Industrial Arts projects think of all the ways being a person of character relates. You will learn about the importance of safety and how you can make your workspace safer by following specific rules. You have chosen Industrial Arts projects because you enjoy building and creating new things. As you finish your projects you will find many uses for what you have created. Think about how your projects could brighten the day of someone else or how sharing your talents with a friend would make them feel. After each of your project meetings think of ways you can show others you are a person of good character by using your knowledge of Industrial Arts and the products you have created.

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

CHARACTER COUNTS! and the Six Pillars of Character are service marks of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. www.charactercounts.org

Character Connection: Industrial Technology

Trustworthiness	Responsibility	Caring
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Be dependable when working with dangerous equipment ✓Be honest with your project leader and your teammates ✓Only use equipment you have been trained to use ✓Show off your talents-choose to build from scratch not using kits or pre-assembled projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Learn safety procedures for all equipment you use ✓Be prepared with the materials you need to complete your projects ✓Listen carefully to the instructions of your leaders ✓Do your part when working in groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Be willing to help friends even if you are competing against them ✓Thank leaders and facilitators that help you with your project ✓ Share your tools and supplies if someone else runs low or is having trouble
Respect	Fairness	Citizenship
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Don't judge people based on the quality of their projects remember that everyone has tried their best ✓Show care and respect for everyone's projects ✓Treat others' projects the way you want your project treated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Take turns using the equipment so everyone has equal time building and constructing ✓Follow specifications and guidelines for your project ✓Allow everyone access to the same materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓Always clean up your workspaces and messes left behind by others ✓Share your talents by building something that you can donate or give as a gift ✓Don't use any supplies that are not allowed ✓Create waste free environments and think of ways to better your community and environment by using your skills

Character Connection: Industrial Technology

Activity: Share the Safety

DO:

Arc Welding and other Industrial Arts project areas can be very dangerous if the proper safety guidelines are not followed. You have learned all about the importance of safety and helping to keep your workspace free from clutter and other safety hazards. More than likely you are not the only person who uses the workspaces, especially if you are working in a school or industrial shop. Show others who use the space that you care about their safety and about helping make the equipment last longer. Create signs for the shop with safety slogans that are easy to remember. Draw pictures and write out the important safety guidelines that should be followed. Make sure you hang your signs in safe places where they will be out of the way and not a safety hazard.

REFLECT:

1. Was it easy to remember all of the safety guidelines you have learned? Which ones were the most difficult for you to think about?
2. Have you ever seen a time when a reminder safety sign has been helpful? If not, can you think of times when a reminder might be necessary?
3. Think about times when you have seen a safety hazard when working. What is your first response? Do you think people want to be reminded of safety rules?

APPLY:

Showing others we care about safety is an important part of being a responsible and caring participant in the Industrial Arts. Sometimes it may seem like because you are younger or less experienced you cannot speak up if you see a safety rule being broken. Think about what someone might say if you pointed out that they were in a dangerous situation. When someone points this out to you, are you mad, or are you grateful that they cared about your safety and the quality of your project? Sometimes we are afraid to speak up around adults or our friends, but remember that when safety is involved you are really showing them you care about them by helping them stay as safe as possible. Hanging your safety signs are one way to show that you are responsible and caring but remember not to stop there; always look out for the safety of others in their workspaces and in other areas of their life.

Expand on this Activity: Help others with their projects by creating signs that show the important steps in the building process. This will serve as a friendly reminder to other 4-Hers that following the steps and not taking shortcuts helps to create the best possible project.



Character Connection: Industrial Technology

Activity: Woodworking for a Good Cause

DO:

Woodworking products are a great gift and can enhance the quality of life for many people. You have learned how to build many products that others can use, including napkin holders, bird houses, foot stools, bookcases and chairs. Each of these projects could change someone's life by helping them to store items or by making a hard task just a little bit easier. As a project group pick one of the items that all of your members feel comfortable building. After choosing the project, set a goal for how many you want to create and who you are going to donate these projects to. If you are building birdhouses you can volunteer to hang them up in a local park. Take your napkin holders to a local VFW hall so your project can sit on each table and be used by local veterans. Chairs, stools and bookcases can be used by your neighborhood nursing home to help make everyday tasks a little easier for its residents. Make sure you hand deliver all of your projects and speak with the people whose lives you are enriching by sharing your woodworking skills.

REFLECT:

1. When are some other times you have been asked to work in a team? How does it make you feel to work in team situations rather than being in competition with one another?
2. How does it make you feel to know you are donating your skills?
3. Can you think of another time you have been able to share your skills or projects with others? Share your experiences volunteering with your project group.
4. How do you think it makes others feel to know you are sharing your talents with them? Brainstorm as a group the people you think were most influenced by you sharing your projects. Are there specific people you met or stories you heard about someone enjoying what you made?

APPLY:

Sharing our talents with others is an important part of being caring. When we share these skills and projects with our community it shows we are citizens who want to enhance the community in which we live. Even though a birdhouse may not seem like a big contribution to your community, someone will look at what you have made and know that you are doing all you can to make the world a better place to live. Remember that as a 4-Her you pledge to make your club, community and world a better place, and by sharing you skills that is what you are doing. Next time you want to make a difference, try sharing a talent or project you have made with someone.

Expand on this Activity: Volunteering is another great way to show off your woodworking and other Industrial Arts skills. Spend a Saturday helping an organization build and repair fences or volunteer to do some welding at a local not-for-profit organization. Many organizations need this type of maintenance help and would be very appreciative of you sharing your time and talents.



Character Connection: Industrial Technology

Activity: Employee's Day Off

DO:

You have learned about types of wood, fasteners for building, building joints, tools and building a project from start to finish. We all have people who we turn to in our local hardware stores to give us advice and help us pick out the supplies we need. These people often remember our names and know that each year when our project starts we will be in to get more advice and start a new project. Show these people you appreciate their help by giving them a day off. Talk with the manager of your local hardware store to coordinate a day that you and your project leaders can volunteer to work in the store while those people that have helped you with your projects enjoy an appreciation party. Set up a party in the store or at a nearby location to show these people that they have helped you be the best you can be. Make sure to include letters of appreciation and tokens of your appreciation.

Showing these people your appreciation is important, but so is volunteering to help out your local store. Share what you have learned with the customers of the hardware store and see if you can help them pick out what they need for their projects. You will be amazed at how many questions you can answer and the customers will be impressed with all of your woodworking knowledge. Even though you now know a lot about woodworking and which types of materials are best, make sure you ask an expert if you are not quite sure of answer to a customer's question.

REFLECT:

How does it make you feel to show appreciation to people who have helped you? How do you think these people feel when you tell them how much you appreciate their time and talents? Can you think of other times when showing someone you appreciate them has also given you the opportunity to share your skills?

Brainstorm other times when you could share your knowledge in your community. Make sure these are realistic and something you would be willing to do.

APPLY:

Showing appreciation is an important part of being a caring and respectful person. There are people everyday who help us make decisions. School teachers, project leaders, youth group leaders, and members of our community spend their time and talents helping us become the best we can be. Next time someone helps you by giving you advice or helping you make an important decision remember to thank them. A thank you is a great way to show you appreciation. If it is someone who spends a lot of time helping you think of other ways to give back to them and show them that you are grateful for all of their help.



Character Connection: Industrial Technology

Activity: Making Your Home Energy Efficient

DO:

Being a responsible citizen means doing your part in making your piece of the world the best it can be. Conserving energy is an important aspect of learning about electricity. Now that you know a little more about electricity in your home you can become an advocate for making every home in your community energy efficient. As a project group research ways to make a home more energy efficient, including how much money a family can save by making a few small changes. Think about where energy escapes from your home and ways to use less electricity and natural resources in the home. After making a list of these energy efficient ideas visit your local hardware store to find out how much each of your ideas cost. Develop a plan for making a home energy efficient for under \$50.00. Share your ideas with your family, 4-H club and classroom at school. Volunteer to help anyone who wants to create a more energy efficient home develop a plan and add the items to their home.

REFLECT:

1. How much energy and money can you save your community if you share your knowledge with others? Do you think your community would appreciate your willingness to help better the environment?
2. Brainstorm with your project group other things involved in electricity that could benefit the lives of others. How does what you have learned so far influence every member of your community?
3. How does it make you feel to know you are helping to preserve natural resources for generations to come?
4. Can you see the benefit of changing people's minds about how they use electricity and other natural resources? What will this do for the future of the world?

APPLY:

Conserving the world's natural resources is one way to show your community that you are a good citizen working to better everyone's life now and in the future. By helping each person in your club save money and natural resources you are bettering the quality of life of so many people. Making homes energy efficient is just one way to conserve natural resources and make the world a better place. Next time you learn something that you think might impact the world share it with your parents or another adult. Have them help you develop a plan for your idea and continue to share your knowledge about creating a better world with your community.

