



WHAT IS IT?

As a 4-H leader you have probably used some of the skills youth develop as they use “**Public Adventures.**” *Public Adventures* is a tool to help youth and their helpers successfully engage in **active citizenship**. Active citizenship is what we do to address concerns and make changes in our communities. The freedom to affect our community is one of our rights living in a democracy. *Public Adventures* helps youth identify and address issues in a productive and public forum while developing strong leadership and communication skills.

HOW IT WORKS:

The *Public Adventures* “Helper’s Guide and Adventure Kit” provide tools and the framework to become active citizens using Seven Steps:

STEP 1: Establish a Group

- Decide how decisions will be made
- Establish rules
- Identify roles and structure for meetings
- Evaluate effectiveness of group process

STEP 2: Identify a Real Issue

- Understand the difference between public and private
- Map your community
- Explore the media
- Identify and choose an issue of concern

STEP 3: Identify a Project Goal

- Explore the idea of personal and public interests
- Choose a project
- Set a goal
- Write a mission statement

STEP 4: Engage the Community

- Explore the concept of power
- Interview community power holders
- Identify community power holders
- Align your project with the community

STEP 5: Create an Action Plan

- List the steps required to reach the goal
- Delegate responsibilities

STEP 6: Strategize for Success

- Identify strategies to involve the public
- Deal with obstacles and setbacks
- Practice on-going evaluation and problem solving
- Monitor morale

STEP 7: Reflect on the Experience

- Reflect in a personal way about your experience
- Evaluate the success of your efforts
- Celebrate your successes and challenges with others
- Consider the sustainability of your effort.

