The Citizenship Courier is a monthly newsletter established by the Global Citizenship Intern at ISU Extension and Outreach.

Citizenship is a 4-H curricula area that teaches youth about their individual role in society and government, and is divided into four topics: civic engagement, civic education, service, and personal development. The Global Citizenship Intern aspires to empower the area of civic education, primarily focusing on global and cultural competence, while also highlighting the other three topics.

**THOUGHTS – INSPIRATION – ACTION!**

The Earth is a beautiful place. It provides us with beautiful scenery, life-giving agriculture, and a place to live. However, climate change is threatening life as we know it. March 25th is Earth Hour, so let’s take one hour out of our day to show the world that we care about the environment. It doesn’t have to be a big gesture. You can start small and see where the journey leads you!

Here are some suggestions to help you get started:

- Visit the Earth Hour website to learn about places affected by global warming
- Take an hour out of your day to pick up trash in your neighborhood
- Plant a tree
- Clean out your closet and donate your old clothes to a local charity
- Go for a hike or bike ride with your friends or family
- Team up with your 4-H club to do a service project for your community
- Turn your ideas into a 4-H project
- Make 4-H proud: Make a Difference

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 8th
International Women’s Day
[https://www.oxfamamerica.org/take-action/events/international-womens-day/](https://www.oxfamamerica.org/take-action/events/international-womens-day/)
Let’s raise awareness to help end poverty and injustice facing women around the world!

March 25th
Earth Hour
[http://www.earthhour.org/](http://www.earthhour.org/)
See article to the left.

“Sooner or later we will have to recognize that the Earth has rights, too, to live without pollution. What mankind must know is that human beings cannot live without Mother Earth, but the planet can live without humans.”

- Evo Morales: President of Bolivia -

Check out the Global Citizenship webpage for more ways to get involved as a global citizen!

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Sophie Kock: New Global Citizenship Intern

As the new Global Citizenship Intern, I wanted to use this month’s newsletter to introduce myself! My name is Sophie Kock, and I am a sophomore at Iowa State University where I am studying communication studies, political science, and leadership. I grew up in Hancock, Iowa where I was a nine-year member of East Pottawattamie County 4-H. My 4-H club, the Botna Valley Achievers, was very active in our community, especially when it came to service. For example, we maintained a flowerbed in the city park, volunteered at the nursing home, and helped provide gifts for families around Christmas time through the Angel Tree project. I have always been interested in global citizenship, and being a member of 4-H helped nurture that interest.

Last spring break, I helped co-lead a mission trip to El Salvador, a Spanish speaking country in Latin America, where we spent a week serving rural communities. My team and I delivered care packages of food to the homebound, worked in elementary and high schools, and also organized a community event with soccer and food for everyone. One thing that really struck me about El Salvador was the joy that everyone had. Despite their living conditions, each Salvadorian and their family was so joyful and excited to invite us into their home. While delivering a care package to a family of five, the oldest daughter, about 11 years old, invited me into her home. The little girl took my hand and led me inside her home which was like nothing I had ever seen before. The walls were 4 sheets of metal, with laminas (a Spanish word meaning thin metal sheets) for the roof. The floor was dirt with two mattresses laid on the ground for the mother, father, and two oldest children to sleep on. Above their beds was a hammock for the baby, and roaming around the 10’ by 12’ home were chickens and dogs. As I took in the scene, I looked at the little girls face, and she was beaming with pride and happiness because I had taken the time to get to know her and her family. Despite the challenge of the father being recently diagnosed with cancer and being unable to work, the family was excited to share with us that the mother was expecting their fourth child. Sometimes it was a little difficult to understand what was going on because of the language barrier, but pushing past the comfort of the English language helped me develop relationships with the people we met. That’s what global citizenship is to me: going outside of my own comfort zone to grow in community through service to others.

Global Citizenship does not always have to be a big grand project. Sometimes, all that’s required of you is your presence – to listen and appreciate someone else’s life story. I am so grateful for my experiences as a 4-H member that pushed me to get out of my comfort-zone for the service of others, and I am excited to be able to help give back to the program that gave me so much.