WL 270

West Virginia University
EXTENSION SERVICE

Ideas, Club Projects, and Special Interest Clubs

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Engaging and interesting club projects can connect multiple generations to focus on similar educational goals, to learn new skills, or provide meaningful service.

A variety of West Virginia Community Educational Outreach Service (WVCEOS) club projects and special interest clubs are beginning to bloom throughout West Virginia, bringing new energy and new members.

A project is a hands-on activity that involves multiple sessions to complete. Existing clubs can choose to take on a project of interest together. Special interest clubs are new groups that form among those interested in a specific activity. A variety of ideas are described below to get members thinking about the possibilities!

Live Sustainable, Lincoln County (Wisconsin)

Wisconsin's Association for Home and Community Education (the equivalent of the WVCEOS organization) has had success with a Live Sustainable, Lincoln County organization. Their mission statement describes it as a nonprofit organization that works to help people lead more environmentally-friendly, fair, and economical lives, for the good of their families, their community, and the planet. More information can be found at *http://counties.uwex.edu/lincoln/p/lslc/*.

Highland Star Quilters

Based in Hardy County, the club meets twice a month to spend time together on quilting. During the first meeting, members learn new quilting techniques and patterns. At the second meeting, members quilt on their own projects in the morning and have a business meeting in the afternoon. Annually, the club hosts the Heritage

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Weekend and the Tri-County Fair quilt shows. Together, they visit quilt shows and attend the annual Quilting Retreat at WVU Jackson's Mill. The Highland Star Quilters help each other build skills and connect with the broader community.

Multi-generational

Different age groups come together to form a multi-generational club. To be most successful this is a "two-way street," with one generation learning from the other. Members must be open to repeating programs and learning skills they have learned in the past. This can be a safe environment for seasoned members to learn new skills, such as new technology.

Working Women

Mineral County's Working Women CEOS club formed to have a separate group from their children's activities. They hold monthly meetings, use email for communication, and share leadership. Everyone has a voice and shares ideas. They enjoy being together and sharing their individual experiences. A sample of activities includes noodle making, historical tour, wine tasting, glass jar snowman craft, local theater night, and benefit walks. Service is also important. In 2014, they took the lead in creating breast cancer awareness ribbon kits for all county club members to wear and share during the month of October.

Wayne County Quilt and Fiber

To increase membership and provide service within the community, the Wayne County Quilt and Fiber Club began in early 2013. This is an introductory quilting and sewing club that meets twice monthly and encourages members to work on any fiber project during the meeting, in addition to identified service projects. After learning that many rural children in Wayne County did not have adequately heated homes or warm bedding, the club started the "Kuilts for Kids" project. Wayne County CEOS clubs adopted this as their county project in 2013. A rural school was selected, and each child in that school received a fleece-lined quilt. The club also took leadership for the "Fidget Quilt" project. A fidget quilt is a small quilt made with different textured cloths and adorned with buttons, zippers, or other objects to help busy the nervous hands of an Alzheimer's or dementia patient.

Travel Club

Have you always wanted to see your state, the country, or the world? Consider starting a travel club of like-minded friends. Travel offers endless options depending upon budget and interest. Ideas include international experiences, regional state destinations, and local highlights.

Club Project Ideas

Create a list of club project ideas with your group. Pick one and set the start date! Here are a few ideas to start the brainstorm.

- Photography
- Basket Making
- Needle Felting
- Food Preservation
- Herb Gardening
- Basic Sewing – Curtains
- Candle Making
- Soap Making
- Watercolor Painting
- Wreath Making
- Rug Making
- Quilted Wall Hanging

For more examples, go to the WVCEOS website at *ceos.ext.wvu.edu*.

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