

## **Aktion Club Single Service Project**

### **Westminster Aktion Club**

There was an email sent out from the local Recreation and Parks describing a program they have called Helping Hands Keep Our Parks Green. The advisor shared this project with the Board who voted on presenting this program to the entire club and applying for the program. The program focuses on park cleanliness, picking up trash and maintained walking trails. Once applied, the club was assigned a nearby park where they are required to maintain the park and get rid of all of the trash at least once a month.

Advisor, Lisa, presented this email to the board who voted yes to share this with the club and apply to the program. The club voted on holding all Board meetings at this park to ensure dedicated time to clean the park at least once a month until it was too cold to clean the park.

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month, the Board would meet at the assigned park, hold a meeting for about 30 minutes under the pavilion then walk the park to clean the walking paths. The club was very safe by always wearing gloves, notifying staff if anything on the ground was unsafe or suspicious and always cleaned their hands at the end of the cleanup. The collected trash would then be brought back to our day center and thrown away in the large dumpster. The Board opened these meeting up to the entire club to join in the cleaning if they wanted to.

The community greatly benefiting from Aktion Club keeping the local park clean. Neighbors would see the club on the path and thank them for keeping the park so clean. Keeping the park clean keeps it safer and accessible to all in the community who want to use it.

Family Members and Kiwanis members are invited each month to join us in cleaning up the park. Our monthly email reminder is always sent the day before our meeting to join the club in keeping the park clean.

The members have learned responsible for the community they live in. The club takes pride in how clean the park stays throughout the year. If the weather is not great, members will feel guilt for not being able to clean the park and look forward to the next time they can go out to clean it.

The club really loves this project and have been doing this for 3 years now. They vote to reapply each year and is incredibly important to them. They enjoy feeling the sense of responsibility for the park. The program has established a placard in the entrance to the park that has our club name on it along with the cleaning program. The club has a lot of pride in that. The community interacts with the club most months that they are there cleaning and thank them greatly. This single service project is a favorite and one the Westminster Aktion Club will continue to participate in!