

Wreaths Across America

EMERALD STAR PROJECT

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For our Emerald Star Project we decided to help out our community and to show our respect for those who serve, have served, and especially those who have lost their lives in the service. We set up a collection at our local food market, Big Al's where we would ask citizens of Wheatland for donations to be able to fund the wreath buying. We were also putting an advertising on facebook for the community to come out and support the event and see the great ceremony, as well as two newspaper articles. Our Reporter, Kiana Walton, placed two promotion articles to come out to the ceremony. Our project was able to collect over \$6,000 to buy wreaths. We accomplished this in only about twelve hours of fundraising.

Through our project we learned great lessons about respecting the men and women who protect our freedoms in our great nation and protect us. We also were taught that it is a spectacular thing to bring our community together, unite us, and have fun while still being respectful. Through our community's gracious support we were able to bring the Wreaths Across America event back to what it used to be, a wonderful event to support Wheatland and to show that 4-H cares about our country.

We were able to bring Wheatland together for a ceremony of roughly 100 people, around 40 4-H members and about ten primary members. These members witnessed representatives of each branch of military. These are magnificent role model for these future leaders.

We had a "double-edged sword", we had a problem and a strength with over staffing. All of our members that were

helping out our project showed up at the same time so we had a little bit of over population. After that everyone seemed to just depart at once leaving us scrambling to communicate with everyone and interact with all the citizens.

We believe that we had a wonderful plan but that we should have started our project a little bit earlier. We think that if we had started earlier that it would have been less of a pain for everyone in Wheatland, as we were seeing the same people multiple days in a row. We also believe that it would have been easier on the 4-H members to not have to show up multiple days in a row.

Overall, we succeeded in raising the funds, organizing the event, and teaching the younger members a thing or two about respect. If we could go back there would not be any major changes. We made the best event better.

1. Goals/Objectives

- A. The goal of our Wreaths Across America project is to raise money to purchase a wreath for every veteran in the Wheatland Cemetery.
- B. Our project is going to satisfy the need of honoring the men and women who have served for our nation. I believe what they have done for our country is important enough for us to show our respect and have a wreath for each veteran.

2. Resources

- A. The resources that our project will need is club members to raise the funds, a facility to raise the funds, and the funds themselves.
- B. Our project will need funds for each wreath, which is \$15. We need to have 370 wreaths. The money will be acquired with donations from the generous citizens of our community.

3. Plan/Timeline

- A. Our plan is to raise our needed funds at Big Al's Grocery Store and then to have the ceremony at the Wheatland Cemetery.
- B. Our method to complete our plan is to use presentation of our mission to the community so that we can raise the funds for the wreaths. Then on December 16th we will have a ceremony with each branch of the military represented when we place the wreaths.
- C. On October 28th and 30th along with November 10th and 11th we will raise the funds needed for our project. Then on December 16th we will have our ceremony at the Wheatland Cemetery.

4. Target Audience

- A. Our target audience is the citizens of our community and we are hoping to show our community the respect we need to give to our veterans.

5. Completion/Success

- A. We know our project will have been successful when we have raised the funds and completed our ceremony. We will know that it has been useful and made an impact when we have raised awareness and respect of our veterans.