COMMUNITY MAPPING: Collecting Data for Your Map - How to Take Photos and Make Videos

ASK
What information do you want to collect for your map? Would that information be enhanced by photos or video?

INVESTIGATE
Take a minute to think about the data you are collecting. Do you want to just take photos of those objects or would a video provide additional information? If you are mapping the location of trees in your neighborhood, for instance, a video probably won’t add more information than a still photo. If you are mapping health clinics, however, you might want to include a video tour of the facility or conduct a video interview with the director of the clinic.

If you are interested in learning more about photography techniques, check out the 4-H Curriculum: Photography 1 (Focus on Photography) and Photography 2 (Controlling the Image).

If you are interested in learning more about video and filmmaking, check out the 4-H Curriculum: 4-H Filmmaking Studio at projects.4-hcurriculum.org/curriculum/filmmaking/

Remember: Always ask permission before taking photos or video of a person. Non-public facilities may also require prior permission. So take the time to explain your project to people and ask permission before collecting your data.

CREATE
Identify the information you are collecting for your map.

1. Make a list of what geographic objects you plan to identify and highlight on your map.
2. Decide if a video or photo will enhance each item or location on your list.
3. Plan how you will accomplish making the video or taking pictures. For instance, gather the necessary equipment, schedule a time, arrange for transportation, get the necessary permission, etc.
4. Make the video and/or take the pictures. Be sure to edit them so the content precisely enhances the objects on your map.

Helpful Tip: When taking a photo or video, remember to mark the location! You can use either a waypoint with a GPS unit or simply write down the address.

DISCUSS
- How would photos or video add to the value of your map?

REFLECT
- What other things in your community could be mapped with the help of photos or video?