

What is the first impression your community leaves on its visitors?

K-State Research and Extension's First Impressions program can improve your community's image and quality of life for your citizens.



First Impressions was developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension and adapted for use by K-State Research and Extension. Restructuring made possible through a partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

Contact Us

For more information or to participate, please contact K-State Research and Extension.

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Or visit: <https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/community/civic-engagement/first-impressions/index.html>

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Revised 8-12-2020

First Impressions



*A way to Boost
Community Vitality*

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How it works

First Impressions allows you to see your community through the eyes of a first time visitor. A volunteer visitation team from a similar community agrees to make the visit.

This visitation team will explore your community's residential, retail, and industrial areas; local government entities; schools; and other points of interest. Teams are trained and follow clear guidelines as they evaluate appearances, access to services; friendliness, and other community attributes.



How it helps

First Impressions increases awareness of a community's strengths and highlights areas of concern. The program helps your community:

- Evaluate the success of current development initiatives;
- Set goals and priorities for new development;
- Identify ways to strengthen community services; and
- Identify initiatives for community support agencies, civic groups, city/county leaders, or community economic development organizations.

How results are shared

The results from the visitation team are presented at a community meeting. Community improvement opportunities are identified and utilized in community planning and improvement.

Your commitment

- 1) Identify a contact person from your community;
- 2) Gather a team of volunteers to visit another community; and
- 3) Organize a community-wide meeting to share the final report.



How to participate

Participation is by request. Upon acceptance into the program, a K-State Research and Extension Community Vitality Specialist will visit your community to further explain the process and identify a similar community to evaluate.

There are no fees to participate in First Impressions. Associated costs are time, mileage and meal expenses during community visits.