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.

Contact Us

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

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First Impressions

A way to Boost Community Vitality

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.

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Stations and Cooperative Extension Service
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.