

Short 'n' Snappy

A quick volunteer learning opportunity
that can be led by any interested volunteer
with experience with the topic.



Community Service vs. Take Action

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS fill an immediate need in the community. Although these projects help the community, they do so only for a short period of time, such as holding a book or clothing drive. They are one-time events that have a short-term impact.

A **TAKE ACTION PROJECT** picks up where a short-term project leaves off. Girls understand and address the root cause of the issue. Girls must also know how each project can be sustained and that its impact is measurable. Take Action Projects are **WITH** the community not just **FOR** the community.

A root cause is the underlying reason for a symptom, problem, or issue. It's the event that initiates a problem or issue.

There are three key questions to ask when planning a Take Action Project:

1. **IS IT VISIBLE?** The project should be seen by members of the community.
2. **IS IT MEASURABLE?** The success of the project can be determined by the number of people the project helped, the number of people who were involved, any reduction in the community's need, and other concrete, quantitative numbers.
3. **IS IT SUSTAINABLE?** Girls must make arrangements (such as collaborating with community leaders, organizations, or building alliances with mentors) to ensure that the project creates lasting change, and is not just a one-time event.

ACTIVITY

1. Have a list of issues for potential Take Action Projects, use the list provided, or ask participants to quickly brainstorm issues. Examples include hunger, trash on the beach, homelessness, breast cancer, or issues specific to your community.
2. Divide participants into teams.
3. Have each team develop a Community Service Project (short-term), and a Take Action Project (that would address the root problem) for each issue.

TIME TO COMPLETE

20 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Short 'n' Snappy Outline
- Community Service vs. Take Action Worksheets on pages 3 & 4
- Handout: [Take Action Guide for Volunteers](#)

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Stay within allotted time.
- If you don't know answers, seek the correct information from the appropriate support person.

TRAINING-BY-REQUEST

This Short 'n' Snappy is included in the content options for Training-by-Request.

[Learn more here.](#)

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- a. If your meeting is taking place in person, distribute copies of the Take Action Project Worksheets, so volunteers can take notes during the discussion.
 - b. If your meeting is taking place virtually and has break-out rooms available as a feature, you can also assign an issue and a break-out room to each team to take 5 minutes to come up with the short-term solution and Take Action Project. Teams can then report back to the main group when the break-out rooms are closed.
 - c. If your meeting is taking place virtually but does not have break-out rooms available, you can show the issue list on the last screen and assign groups of volunteers to each issue, and each volunteer assigned to an issue can add their thoughts when the facilitator brings that issue up for discussion.
1. After the teams are finished, ask one person from each team to explain how they came up with their solutions.
 2. End the activity with a general discussion of Take Action Projects and ask Leaders to provide examples of Take Action Projects. Explain that there is progression in Take Action Projects from Daisy to Ambassador levels, asking experienced leaders for examples of projects that have worked for them.

Tip: If participants have difficulty going from the short-term solution to a take action project, use the leading questions, “After this short-term project is done, what could be done to prevent this problem for others?” and “After this short-term project is done, how do we make this a lasting project to continue to address this issue into the future?”

EXAMPLE OF ACTIVITY WORKSHEET:

ISSUE AND SHORT-TERM SOLUTION <i>(one-time effort with short-term impact)</i>	TAKE ACTION PROJECT <i>(identifies root cause; has long-term impact and sustainable support)</i>
Issue: A local park has a problem with litter. Solution: Have a park clean-up day.	Work with the city to install garbage cans and put up “No Littering” signs in the park.
Issue: An uninsured family’s home is destroyed in a fire. Solution: Collect clothes, household goods, and food for the family.	Organize a home goods depot, like a food pantry, for community members to have access to basic household goods in the event that they lose their homes in an emergency.



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WORKSHEET

ISSUE AND SHORT-TERM SOLUTION <i>(one-time effort with short-term impact)</i>	TAKE ACTION PROJECT <i>(identifies root cause; has long-term impact and sustainable support)</i>
Issue: A local park has a problem with litter. Solution:	
Issue: An uninsured family's home is destroyed in a fire. Solution:	
Issue: Racial tensions exist in the community. Solution:	
Issue: There is water waste in the community. Solution:	
Issue: Many kids stop taking science classes because they don't think science is fun. Solution:	
Issue: New students at a local school have a hard time meeting new friends. Solution:	



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WORKSHEET

ISSUE AND SHORT-TERM SOLUTION <i>(one-time effort with short-term impact)</i>	TAKE ACTION PROJECT <i>(identifies root cause; has long-term impact and sustainable support)</i>
Issue: The local park doesn't have playground equipment for kids with disabilities. Solution:	
Issue: Teens in the school who feel depressed don't know where to go for help. Solution:	
Issue: Student's don't have access to help with their homework after school. Solution:	
Issue: The streets around the school are unsafe due to speeding vehicles. Solution:	
Issue: Pet owners are unable to afford vaccinations for their animals. Solution:	
Issue: Solution:	



Community Service vs. Take Action

ISSUE LIST

ISSUES FOR SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS AND TAKE ACTION PROJECTS

For your assigned issue:

1. Think of a short-term solution with one-time effort and short-term impact.
2. Think of a Take Action Project that identifies root causes and has long-term impact and sustainable support

Issue #1: The local park doesn't have playground equipment for kids with disabilities.

Issue #2: Teens in the school who feel depressed don't know where to go for help.

Issue #3: Students don't have access to help with their homework after school.

Issue #4: The streets around the school are unsafe due to speeding vehicles.

Issue #5: Pet owners are unable to afford vaccinations for their animals.

Issue #6: New students at a local school have a hard time meeting new friends.

Issue #7: Many kids stop taking science classes because they don't think science is fun.

Issue #8: There is water waste in the community.

Issue #9: Racial tensions exist in the community.