

Community Service vs. Take Action Projects

Community Service

What is Community Service?

Community service projects are projects that help to solve an immediate need, but don't have an impact on the root cause of an issue. They are one-time fixes to a problem. For example, cleaning the litter along a park's hiking trail will make the park look nice for a day, but does not stop litter from being there tomorrow.

A Community Service Project:

- ◆ Is short term
- ◆ Might only be a 1 day event
- ◆ Will only help at the surface
- ◆ Won't address bigger issues
- ◆ Won't inspire larger change
- ◆ Helps people but hard to track the effects

****There's nothing wrong with community service!**

They are a great way to do small things to make the world a better place!

Take Action Project

What is a Take Action Project?

Take Action projects are projects that help solve an issue by discovering the cause and developing a project to affect or eliminate the cause of the problem. It is a sustainable project that will continue after the project is over. To use the park as an example again, you would try to figure out why there is so much litter. You could pick up the litter and then work with the park to provide more trashcans along the trail and make signs educating park users on the negative effects litter has on the environment.

A Take Action Project:

- ◆ Will be long lasting
- ◆ Will fix the root of the issue
- ◆ Will create change
- ◆ Will be sustainable
- ◆ Will inspire & educate
- ◆ Will be measurable

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How do you make a project sustainable?

Sustainability when it comes to Take Action Projects doesn't mean "environmentally friendly." Something that is sustainable will last or endure. "Sustainable" means that the project doesn't offer a one-time solution. The change that the girls make will continue in the future even after their project is done.

How do you measure a project?

You don't need a ruler to measure a Take Action Project! Measurable means the impact the project has on the community is easy to track. Maybe you can count how many people it helps or you can visually see a noticeable difference in the amount of trash in the park.