girl scouts
of the green and
white mountains

Community Service vs. Take Action Projects

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 also must know how each project can be sustainable 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.

Girls must make sure that the project is visible within the community, the impact is measurable, and that the project is sustainable.

> **Visible**: a project that can be seen by members of the community.
> **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.
> **Sustainable:** Girls make arrangements (such as collaborating with community leaders and/or 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 problems listed on newsprint. Examples include hunger, trash on the beach, homelessness, breast cancer, or your own list.
2. Divide participants into teams.
3. Distribute the "Take Action Projects" sheet and ask each team to list several problems. Have them develop a short-term project (community service) and a Take Action project (that would address the root problem) for the problems they pick.
4. After the teams are finished, ask one person from each team to explain how they came up with their solutions. Ask the larger group to add in any additional input and write solutions on newsprint.
5. 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.
6. Grant money may be available for your Take Action Project. Ask GSGWM council for more information.

What You'll Need for this Snappy:

◊ Leaders

◊ Moderator

◊ Resources needed: Copies of "Take Action Project" sheets (1 per team), pens or pencils, newsprint, markers, tape.

◊ 15-20 minutes

Take Action Projects

Take some time to review the short-term project examples in the left-hand column. Then, see whether you can use what's there to create a Take Action project. Or use the final row to start the process yourself. Ready, set, go!

Issue and Short-Term Solution (one-time effort with short-term impact)	Take Action Project (identifies the root cause; has long-term impact and sustainable support)
Issue: An uninsured family's home is destroyed in a fire. Solution: Collect clothes, household goods, and food for the family.	
Issue: Racial tensions exist in the community. Solution: Organize a weekend diversity celebration.	
Issue: Families are going hungry. Solution: Hold a food drive for families in need.	
Issue: Solution:	