

## Before Your Project Investigate

Identify a local, national, or global community need that you would like to address.



## Choose Your Cause

What problems have you seen, heard, read about, or experienced that sparked your interest or concerned you?

What issue do you care about most?

The following are examples of common community issues. Select the one that is most important to you. The issue(s) you care about may not be listed. Add any issue(s) you want to help solve.

<b>Education</b>	<b>Bullying/Violence</b>	<b>Dropout Prevention</b>	<b>Disasters</b>
Recruit and train _____ volunteer readers, tutors, and mentors.	Reduce bullying and/or violence in school and communities by _____%.	Encourage _____ students to stay in school.	Help _____ people to prepare for a disaster.
<b>Safe Driving</b> Educate _____ people about the dangers of distracted driving.	<b>Water</b> Restore or protect _____ bodies of water.	<b>Reduce, Reuse, Recycle</b> Keep _____ pounds of glass, metal, plastic, or paper out of landfills.	<b>Energy</b> Help save energy and reduce your carbon footprint by _____%.
<b>Hunger</b> Provide food for _____ people.	<b>Economic Opportunity</b> Organize a job skills training for _____ people.	<b>First Aid</b> Work with local agencies to train _____ people in CPR/first aid skills.	<b>Gender Equality</b> Speak out for gender rights to empower _____ people.
<b>Access to School</b> Help _____ students around the world attend school or gain access to the internet.	<b>Trees</b> Increase the Earth's tree cover by planting _____ trees.	<b>Places to Play</b> Create or improve _____ playgrounds to provide safe places for children to play.	<b>Green Space</b> Create _____ square feet of new green spaces or community gardens.
<b>Biodiversity</b> Protect _____ acres of habitat for endangered plant and animal species.	<b>Health &amp; Obesity</b> Increase physical activity and / or healthy eating habits of _____ people.	<b>Disease</b> Stop the spread of infectious diseases by immunizing or educating _____ people..	<b>Housing</b> Build or renovate _____ affordable housing units.
<b>Healthier Babies</b> Prevent premature birth, and improve the health of _____ moms and babies.	<b>Destructive Decisions</b> Reduce the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or risky sexual behavior by _____%.	<b>Medical Research</b> Raise _____ dollars to support research to cure or treat diseases.	<b>Other Cause</b> Add another issue you care about:

### Your Cause:

Why is this issue important to you?

### Your Vision:

What would you like to see change?

## Identify Your Personal Passions & Assets

You researched and learned about a community need. The next step is to think about what personal passions and assets you have that can help make a difference.

These are examples of some personal passions and interests. Your passion may not be listed - just add it! **Circle the one(s) that you enjoy most.**

<b>Music</b> Playing an instrument, singing, writing songs.	<b>Art</b> Painting, drawing, sculpture, graphic art.	<b>Writing</b> Writing poetry, stories, and plays; journalism.	<b>Movement</b> Dancing, martial arts, cheerleading.
<b>Building</b> Wood working, construction, welding.	<b>Leadership</b> Peace building, student government, politics.	<b>Entrepreneurship</b> Business, marketing, inventing things.	<b>Sports</b> Team sports, physical activities, competitions.
<b>Teaching</b> Mentoring, tutoring, teaching, reading to kids.	<b>Nature</b> Exploring nature, wildlife, gardening.	<b>Animals</b> Caring for animals, training, medicine.	<b>Computers</b> Software development, repair, web design.
<b>Creative Arts</b> Cooking, sewing, fashion, knitting.	<b>Academic Subjects</b> Science, math, history, literature, geography.	<b>Speech</b> Debate or public speaking, broadcasting.	<b>Comedy</b> Making people laugh, jokes, writing sketches.
<b>Spirituality</b> Prayer, meditation, studying sacred texts.	<b>Drama / Theater</b> Acting, directing, theater lighting, or set design.	<b>Photography &amp; Film</b> Taking pictures, making films, animation.	<b>Reading</b> Reading fiction, nonfiction, poetry.
<b>Advocacy</b> Politics and government, commitment to a cause	<b>Journalism</b> Newscasting, writing, radio & TV production.	<b>Outdoor Recreation</b> Fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, bicycling.	<b>Mechanics</b> Electronics or machine repair, auto repair.

### Personal Assets (your strengths, things you are good at or enjoy):

Skills and interests	Knowledge
Interests and experiences	Traits

### How You Can Help:

How will you use your personal passions and assets to address the community need?

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## Choose Your Action Strategy

You can lead change ASAP through Awareness, Service, Advocacy, or Philanthropy. Choose what kind(s) of action you will use to address the issue you chose.

### AWARENESS

**Educate. Share information and teach others to positively change people's behaviors.**

Examples include: encouraging seat belt use and safe driving, recycling, healthy eating; discouraging smoking, bullying, and teaching families how to be prepared for disasters.



### SERVICE

**Volunteer. Use your creativity, time, and talent to directly meet a need in your community.**

Examples include: tutoring, planting trees, improving school buildings, cleaning beaches and parks, distributing food or serving meals, and teaching senior citizens how to use technology.



### ADVOCACY

**Advocate. Speak out, join others, and persuade policy makers to change policies and laws.**

Examples include: rallies, marches, protests, meeting with elected officials, speaking at public forums or meetings, voter education, candidate engagement, organizing petitions, and online advocacy.



### PHILANTHROPY

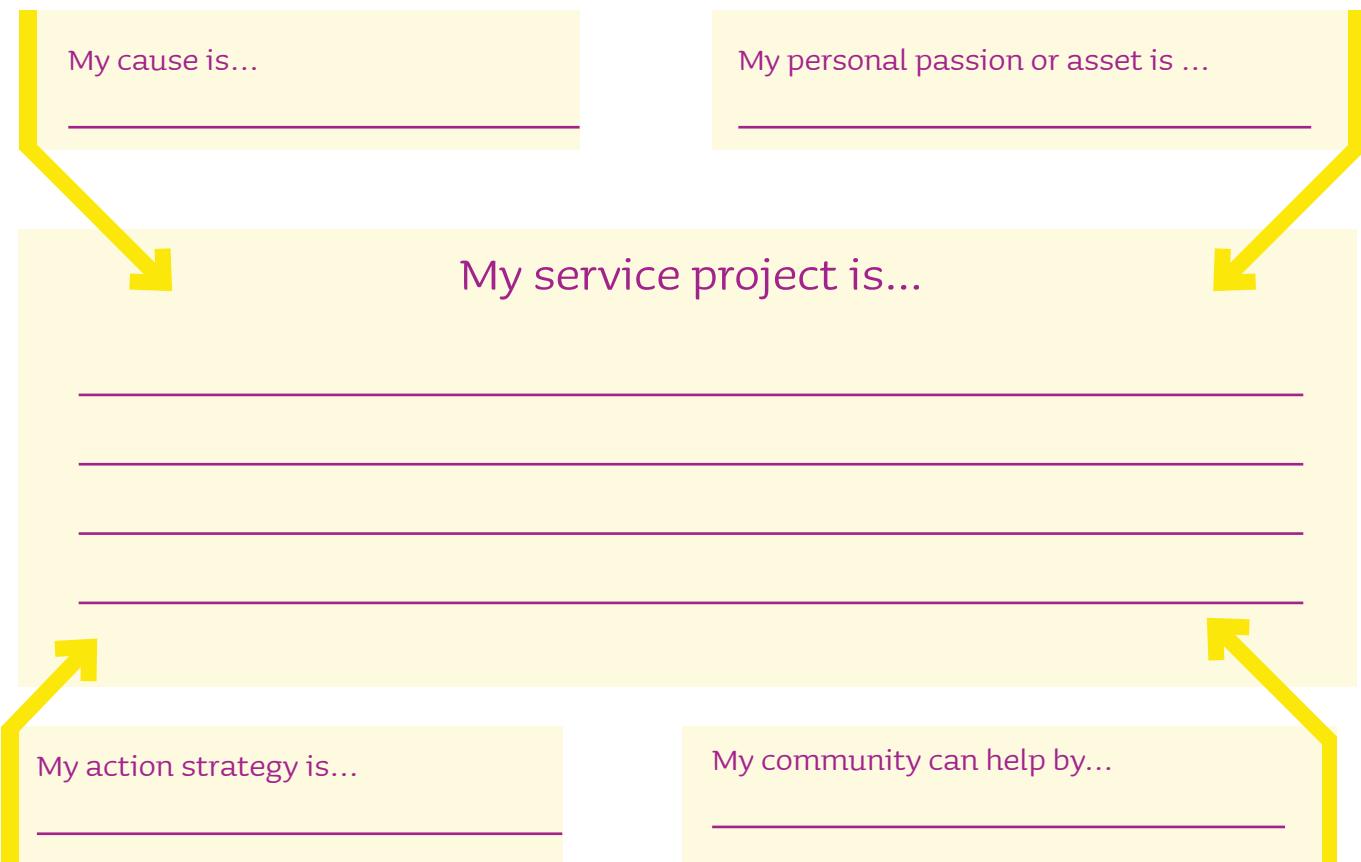
**Give. Collect and donate financial and in-kind support.**

Examples include: raising money for hurricane disaster relief, clean water wells, mosquito nets, or research to treat and cure diseases; food drives and supply drives; and collecting books for children.



**Your Action Strategy:**

## Put It All Together!



### Example:

Community Need	+	Personal Assets	+	Community Assets	+	Type of Project	=	Project Idea
My cause is... increasing the amount of paper our school recycles.	+	My personal passion is.. woodshop class.	+	My community can help by... letting me use tools in woodshop class and donating wood.	+	My action strategy is... doing direct service.	=	Creating new recycling bin lids that have slots just for paper.

### Are you ready to do this project?

Answer these questions to make sure that your project is meaningful, doable, and effective:



- ▢ Are you willing to commit time and skills to this project?
- ▢ Will the project have a positive, and visible, outcome for your community?
- ▢ Will you be able to measure and track the impact or results of your project?
- ▢ Can you convince friends to join you? Can you promote the project as something that would attract them?
- ▢ Is there enough time to plan and complete the project?
- ▢ Will you need funds to do this project – and do you have a plan for how you will raise them? Do you know where, and how, you will be able to collect needed project supplies and materials?



If you answer, “Yes,” to all these questions, you are ready to begin planning your project. If not, adjust or simplify your project idea as needed.