



CREATING MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

This example is to help you envision how you can start transforming your current community service activity into an enriching community service experience. Keep in mind that there are five parts of a service learning project, and your club might focus on enhancing one of the five aspects this year.

ROADSIDE CLEAN-UP

Initial Scenario of a Community Service Activity:

- Club has always done a roadside clean-up, thus will do it again this year
- Adult Leader plans & organizes a roadside clean-up
- Members do a roadside clean-up
- Members report to the club on the activity

Creating a More Meaningful Community Service Activity:

- Club members invite an environmental educator to a club meeting prior to doing a roadside clean-up and learn about the importance of taking care of the environment.
- Adult Leader plans & organizes a roadside clean-up
- Members do a roadside clean-up
- Members report back to the club on the activity, and then share how they thought the activity was beneficial for the community

Final Transformation into Service-Learning Activity

Investigation

Club members brainstorm issues in the community and decide that they want to focus on improving the environment. They invite a speaker to a club to discuss the importance of taking care of the environment.

Planning

Members and adult volunteers work together to find a project that includes all ages and abilities of members. They decide that the older kids will do a road-side clean-up, and the younger kids will do a school yard clean-up. After obtaining information on proper road-side and school yard clean-ups, members teach the rest of the club what to expect, how to prepare, and how to finish the clean-up. They also invited students and teachers from the school to participate in the clean-up.

Action

Everyone shows up and participates in the roadside clean-up. Trash bags are left in the appropriate places, or delivered by a group of youth and adults.

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Reflection and Celebration

After the roadside clean-up, members meet at a local ice cream place to celebrate their hard work. While eating ice cream, members took turns talking about what surprised them the most about the clean-up, how they thought this activity impacted their community and school, and what they might do differently in the future.

Demonstration

Members wrote an article on their service learning experience, and listed some of the items found during the clean-up to encourage people to be more consciences about littering. The article was submitted to the local newspaper and the school newsletter.