

Community Service Project Packet

This packet includes ideas and hints that will help enable your chapter to find and carry out a successful community service project.

Section 1—Going Out and Getting Started

Section 2—Ideas your chapter can use

Section 3—The Capstone to your Community Service Project

FBLA GOAL—Encourage members in the development of individual projects which contribute to the improvement of home, business, and community.

Going out and getting started

Why do community service?

As an FBLA member involvement in service to the community enables a member to develop and enhance their leadership and social skills. Members will have a chance to actively participate in activities that will foster respect for others and promote civic responsibility. Community service is an excellent way to give youth real world experience in a variety of career fields. After it is all completed members will have achieved a feeling of self-satisfaction for serving to a greater good in their community.

What does our chapter do to get started?

When your chapter has decided that they want to pursue a community service activity, there are a few steps that will make establishing a project easier. Be sure that in the development of the project to incorporate all members in some aspect, so that they feel a stronger commitment. Getting everyone involved will ensure a higher level of success with your project.

What is needed?

At the point in which your chapter has decided to carry out a community service project, have the members go out and investigate various possibilities in which to pursue. At one of your meetings brainstorm and discuss which one of the projects that the members would like to commit to. After coming to a majority on which community service activity your chapter will engage in begin to lay out a timetable for your project. Set specific goals and deadlines for when you would like to get each phase of your project accomplished.

What will your chapter do?

At this point, your chapter has made a lot of progress, you have decided to pursue a community service activity, and you have defined your project's goals and deadlines. It is very important now to give each member a specific part that they will be contributing. All members should feel as though they have a significant role in the overall success of the project. One way to ensure the satisfaction of all members is to have them list the top two things that they want to contribute. Ensure that everyone gets to do at least one of them. It is also important to make sure that every member contributes to the "grunt work" of the project. An essential aspect of your project is contacting local media before conducting the project. A photograph in the newspaper, or story on the local news will bring attention to a specific community service need, and also positive promotion of your chapter.

Ideas for your chapter

The following is a list of ideas your chapter can potentially use as its community service project:

Cancer Research Organizations

Your chapter can develop a project in which you volunteer or promote fundraising for a local or nationwide cancer research organization. Organizations like ASK (Association for the Support of Children with Cancer) or St.Jude's will help your chapter develop informational and fundraising projects that will go towards helping fund cancer research and also in the development of facilities for those coping with the illness.

Homeless Shelters

No matter what size city you live in, there is usually at least one shelter that helps the homeless with meals, beds, and other services. Most shelters welcome volunteers and have a variety of programs your chapter can participate in whether it's helping with food drives or working in their business office. Projects can last anywhere from one day to an entire year. Look online or in a local phonebook for shelters near your chapter!

Food Banks

Working with other non-profit organizations and charities, food banks store and distribute food to the poor (especially on holidays). Chapter opportunities can range anywhere from visiting neighborhood groups to promote the food bank to helping distribute food at the bank. Look online or in a phonebook for food banks near your chapter!

Special Olympics

The Special Olympics is an "international program of year round sports training and competition for children and adults with mental retardation." (as described by the Special Olympics web site) Chapters can help with sports training, fundraising, competition planning and staffing, and much more. For more information about the organization go to www.specialolympics.org.

People to People Organizations

Including Habitat for Humanity, Ronald McDonald House, the Salvation Army, and the Red Cross, "People to People" organizations help the less fortunate in all aspects. Whether your chapter would like to spend a weekend building a house, helping a family with a terminally ill child, or just help in the organization of a blood drive, these organizations are always looking for eager volunteers. Look online for sites like www.habitat.org, www.redcross.org, and www.rmhc.com to find how your chapter can help out!

Ideas for your chapter

MARCH OF DIMES

- WalkAmerica (collect pledges per mile walked)
- WalkMania at a local elementary or middle school (poss. ML chapter)
- Blue Jeans for Babies Stickers/Buttons (sell to businesses - on a certain day all wearing them have privilege of wearing jeans)
- Dime Collection in school/classroom
- Sell March of Dimes Beanie Babies (contact local MOD branch for info)
- Poster Child (find a child who has benefited from the MOD, and tell their story)

NATIONAL LITERACY PROJECT

- Start a tutoring program between chapter members & local elementary/middle schools
- A group of chapter members read to an elementary classroom 1x wk/mo
- Book Drive
- Volunteer at Head Start, VICTORY, or other literary program
- Play Santa at Christmas and give books as presents

TOURETTE'S SYNDROME

- Have your local chapter create an informative flyer about this disorder
- Make a presentation in your classes/at a chapters meeting/ to a school assembly
- Make a Public Service Announcement (obtain from Tourette's Assoc.) on your school announcements, local radio, or news
- Speak on this topic at elementary/middle schools

OTHER PROJECTS

- Dances, Carwashes, Carnivals, Raffles, Bake Sales, Talent Shows (raise some money, have fun, all while achieving positive public visibility)
- Chapter Christmas Gift-Wrap (talk to mall management & see if you can set up a table)
- Go Trick-or-Treating for Cans - put flyers in mailboxes - then return a week later
- Volunteer at local shelter or soup kitchen
- Participate in Big Brother/Sister Program
- Sponsor an annual food/clothing drive at your school
- Visit a nursing home/ Adopt-a-Grandparent
- Adopt-a-Highway
- Any "a-thon" (ex. Twist, Jump, Read, etc)
- Buddy up with other student groups & VSO's and sponsor a huge community wide clothing or food drive
- Angel Tree or Christmas Angels (programs through Salvation Army)
- FBLA-PBL members teach free community classes (ex. Resume writing, job interview skills)

The Capstone to your Community Service Project

Well at this point in your project, everyone is feeling proud of completing your chapters community service project. Their dedication and effort into serving a good cause will help build character and values through this cornerstone of FBLA-PBL. Your chapter has successfully planned, developed, and carried out your project which in itself is a great achievement. From here, your chapter should have each member write a brief reflection on what they thought of your project including its strong points, and possible weak points. This will enable your chapter to form a general evaluation of your service for future reference enabling a continued progression of success in the community and FBLA-PBL!