



Helping PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES and the PLANET

SPARKING AN IDEA ACTION KIT

YOU'RE ABOUT TO ORGANIZE A SERVICE PROJECT AND
MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR WORLD – WAY TO GO!

Your service project is a great way for you to combine your passions, interests and hobbies while making a difference in your community!

This action kit, created by Disney's Friends for Change and YSA, will give you tips on how to Spark an Idea for your service project!



5 WAYS TO SPARK AN IDEA

1

BE CREATIVE AND USE YOUR IMAGINATION

As you begin to plan your service project, start by answering a few questions to help shape and guide your project.

- **What Inspires You:** Why do you want to organize a service project?
- **How Are You Special:** What are your talents and hobbies, or favorite activities and interests?
- **What Are You Good At:** What do you think you do really well, and what makes you happy? Think about experiences that excite you and channel that excitement into your new project.
- **What Can YOU do:** What would you do to change your community, if there were no limits? Eliminate excuses and partner with others who will help you plan and do your service project.

2

TAKE A PERSONAL INVENTORY

Your passion, knowledge, experiences, and enthusiasm will motivate others to join you in your project. What can I bring to the project? What and how can my friends, parents and family, or other adults around me contribute?

- Take an inventory of your experiences, talents, and knowledge; becoming aware of your personal gifts will increase your connection to the community issue and make the project more meaningful to you.
- What do you need to learn more about, in order to make a bigger difference with your project?

TIP:

To learn more about the issue your service project is going to deal with, interview community members, read newspaper articles or blogs about the issue, and search for people or organizations on Twitter and Facebook who share your passion.



3

THINK OUT LOUD

When service projects are connected to your sparks — hobbies, interests, or dreams — you are more likely to be excited about your project. Start by thinking out loud — brainstorm issues in your community that you can help fix with a fun and creative service project. To help brainstorm community issues, try the following:



- Use your own experiences and observations.
 - Interview friends, family, others in your school, and neighbors.
(Be sure to ask your parent, guardian, or mentor for permission.)
 - Research your issue on the Internet to find resources you might be able to use.
 - Brainstorm how you can work with your community, and use your passion and creativity to make a difference.

TIP:

Are your friends, family, or other kids always coming to you for help with certain things, or complimenting you on anything? We all have skills and talents that people appreciate; do what comes easy and natural to you.



NOTES AND PROJECT IDEAS

4

TAKE A COMMUNITY INVENTORY

Taking a good look at your community will help you identify its needs and priorities, as well as what works well, and what needs help – YOUR help! Be sure to let your parents or guardians know what you are planning and invite them to come along!

- Take a walk around your community, taking notes and pictures. Get together with your friends and talk about things you would like to change or improve.
- How can your friends and other young people help you build your project?
- What else can others in your community – adults, organizations, or special interest groups – help you with?
- Interview people who are already working on the issue that you care about. Ask them about their spark – and how they turned it into action.



TIP:

Check with friends who have invited you to join in their project, or who have done a project that you liked. Ask how they invited all the people they needed to help make their project a huge success!



5

RAISE YOUR VOICE

You have discovered your passions, talents, interests, and hobbies, brainstormed community issues, and tapped into your creativity and imagination. How can you be sure that your service project will reflect your “sparks”?

- **Share your excitement!** Reach out to lots of other young people, tell them what you want to do, and invite them to add their own ideas to help make your project a success.
- **Speak up!** As you invite adults to share their skills, experience, and resources, let them know that you are excited to have them help you develop your idea.
- **Lead the way!** Be prepared to commit the necessary time and energy to manage your project, and encourage your friends, family, and others to follow your example.
- **Be responsible.** Seek out lots of expert advice and help in turning your ideas into a successful project plan – you don’t have to do it alone. Then, be prepared to make the important decisions.

We know you’re working hard to make a positive lasting change in your world! Thanks for all you do and for inspiring others to take action, too!

NOTES AND PROJECT IDEAS

