

Finding a Project idea

There are many ways to turn something you enjoy doing into a community-benefiting activity. Many venturers address social issues through fun and interesting activities. For example, if you like art, you can plan an after-school arts programme to address diversity in your school. If you like outdoors, then you can organize clean-up hikes to promote environmental awareness.

The following questions can help you brainstorm a few ideas.

1. What are your interests and passions?

Make a list of your favourite hobbies, sports, issues, and school subjects. For example, may be you like knitting, palying soccer, and are passionate about HIV / AIDS education.

2. What are your skills? What are you good at doing?

Make a list of your talents and abilities. What skills do you and your team possess? For example, you are good at playing guitar, painting etc.

3. What problems exist in your school or community?

Make a list of problems affecting your community. For example, there is littering in the school, people throw waste on the road etc.

4. What groups of people in your community need help or support?

Make a list of different groups of people in your community that you are interested in working with on problems in your community. For example, elderly people, street children, slum children, children of domestic helps, creating week-end programmes for students in your community.

5. Think creatively about how you can use your hobbies, skills, interests, and passions to respond to a need, a problem or an opportunity to create change.

Building a Strong 'TEEN' Team

A **TEEN Team** is a group of two or more teenagers of your group who share a common goal of making change in their community. Having an effective team enables each member to use his/her skills and talents, share roles and responsibilities, communicate with each other, and get the job done well.

Below are some suggestions to help you decide how to run your TEEN Team efficiently.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead

1. Choose responsible, dedicated people:

When choosing team members, it is important to find others who are as dedicated to the cause as you are. They should be mature, organized, and willing to do work. It is very important that everyone on the team be open-minded and accepting of others both within the group and in the community.

2. Structure your team and delegate tasks:

There are many different ways to structure your team. Many teams have found it easiest to elect one or two persons to take charge as the lead members. Other teams prefer to rotate roles each week. Different teams work well with different structures. Try several ideas out until you find the system that works best for your team.

Roles like, team leader, membership / recruitment, public relations etc.

Action Plan

SMART Goals

Goal setting is very important for your TEEN team. Identify three or four SMART goals. These goals are one of the most important parts of your Action Plan because they will be the driving force behind your idea.

SMART goals are:

Specific: is the goal detailed enough that someone who isn't part of your team would know what needs to be done and how?

Measurable: Is there a clear way to measure success? How will you know when you've reached your goal?

Actionable: Is there a clear series of steps to take to accomplish your goal?

Realistic: Is it possible to reach this goal considering the time and resources available to your team?

Timely: When will the goal be accomplished?

An example: My **TEEN** team will adopt 5 children from a nearby slum and teach them English for 2 hours every weekend for the next 6 months starting from 5th September 2009.