

## Take Action Project Resource for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

In order to complete a Girl Scout Journey, you must do a Take Action Project. Use these steps to help you!

1. What is community? In what community do you live? (this could be your school, town, city, surrounding area)
2. Are there any problems you see within your community? Make a list!
3. Which of these problems do you think you or your troop could help to fix? Choose the 1 problem you think you or your troop could do a really good job at helping with.
4. Brainstorm a few ideas for solutions – ways to fix a problem – that you think you could complete as a troop or on your own.
5. Choose which solution you think your group could complete and the steps to doing this. Is there a way to measure or see if your solution worked or is working? Make sure this solution is sustainable, which means it is long lasting and will help for a long time to come.
6. Go for it!
7. Celebrate it!



Take Action Projects try to help the main cause of an issue, and come up with **sustainable**, longer-lasting solutions. When we do Take Action Projects, we should try to **address the root cause** of an issue in our community. For example, if your community has a problem with litter being on the streets, the root cause of the problem, why the problem is happening, could be that there are not enough trash cans around, so people are littering. Sustainability simply means coming up with a solution that lasts. These projects strive to **make the world a better place** for more people for a much longer time.

Community Service Project	Take Action Project
Addresses an immediate need in the community	Addresses the root cause of an issue in the community
A project done FOR the community	A project done WITH the community
A one-time project that helps something or someone now	A long-term project that is sustainable and makes a lasting impact
Uses your time	Uses your leadership
Short term, helps right now	Helps longer team (sustainable)
You show up for something already set-up by someone else	You get other people to show up to help you with something you arranged

## “For” Versus “With”

**Directions:** Read the following story, and then discuss the questions below with your group, troop, or family.

A Girl Scout Cadette troop completes a badge about pets. They visit the shelter during their badge work and notice that the dogs don't have any toys. Their guide also mentions that sometimes the dogs get bored just like kids when they are in their cages.

The girls return home and decide to do this as a great opportunity to help the community; they will make dog toys to donate. The girls complete a money earning activity to purchase supplies, gather to make the toys, and go to deliver the toys to the shelter. The director welcomes them and shares that they won't use the toys for the dogs but will use them at a fundraiser to help raise money for the shelter.

### *Is this a Take Action Project?*

**What could the troop have done better?**

**Did the girls...**

1. Look in their community for a problem?
2. Think about the root cause of a problem (identify the issue)?
3. Identify a way to affect this root cause?
4. Look in the community for resources?
5. Identify steps to address the root cause of the problem?
6. Connect with community members to see if their steps meet the community's needs?
7. Consider sustainability?
8. Implement the planned steps?
9. Evaluate the successes and lessons learned from the project?
10. Celebrate the completion of the project?

**Answer the following questions.**

1. How do I define a successful Take Action Project?

---

---

---

2. Define sustainability & give an example of how to make a project sustainable?

---

---

---

3. In what ways can I or my troop connect with the community?

---

---

---

# Take Action Planner

Steps	Brainstorming	Examples/Tips
What is community? In what community do you live? (this could be your school, town, city, surrounding area)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School</li><li>• Town</li><li>• Club</li></ul>



Steps	Brainstorming	Examples/Tips
<p>Are there any problems you see within your community? Make a list!</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose which community you'd like to focus on. Identify a need in that community.</li> <li>• Interview people, read articles, find professional organizations online.</li> </ul>
<p>Which of these problems do you think you or your troop could help to fix? Choose the 1 problem you think you or your troop could do a really good job at helping with.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with your troop or your family what problems interest you. Pick one issue to do your Take Action project on.</li> </ul>

Steps	Brainstorming	Examples/Tips
<p>Brainstorm a few ideas for solutions – ways to fix a problem – that you think you could complete as a troop or on your own.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think creatively!</li> <li>• Which solution do you think you or your group could <i>*really*</i> work on with minimal help from adults?</li> </ul>
<p>Choose which solution you think your group could complete and the steps to doing this. Is there a way to measure or see if your solution worked or is working? Make sure this solution is sustainable, which means it is long lasting and will help for a long time to come.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan out your Take Action project.</li> <li>• Remember to work together as a group to execute your plan.</li> </ul>