

Ask the Experts

This activity will allow members to:

- Improve communication skills.
- Practice active listening.
- Connect with community leaders.

Materials needed:

- One worksheet per member (print it at buildersclub.org/IDEA)
- Pens or pencils

How to lead this activity:

Your club made great strides at the last meeting. You created a plan to learn more about your service need by contacting community organizations. Before members reach out, take time to practice your “pitch” for inviting guest speakers to your club meeting.

1. Briefly summarize the last meeting and the Let’s Get Help activity.
2. Give each member an Ask the Experts handout.
3. As the club secretary reviews the last meeting’s notes, club members should write the name of their assigned organization on their worksheet.
4. Ask each member to complete the Ask the Experts worksheet.
5. Ask members to pair up. (Any members contacting the same organization should work together.)
6. Instruct each pair to practice their speeches together, using the Ask the Experts handout.
7. Ask all members to reach out to their organization by the next club meeting.
8. Instruct members to report back to club officers on their progress, especially if they receive a “Yes” for a guest speaker, so that the advisor can coordinate presentations for future meetings.
9. Thank members for their hard work, and let them know that you are excited to hear about their progress.

Ask the Experts

How can you be sure that your club can make a positive impact on the chosen service need? Ask the experts! In this activity, you will invite a community expert to speak to your club about what his/her organization does and how the club might help. If he/she is unable to attend a meeting, you'll ask for a quick phone interview.

Use the script below to guide you. If you are "making the ask" with another member, coordinate your efforts and highlight which parts of the script each of you will present.

Name: _____ Club member I am paired with: _____

Organization we will contact: _____

Name of the person we will speak to: _____

Script:

Hello! My name is _____ and this is _____. We are members of the Builders Club of _____. Builders Club is a middle school service club, and we are currently researching how _____ affects our school and community. We are

contacting you because of your dedicated work in our community. Our club is interested to hear more about your work and how you think our club might help you and your organization make a lasting difference. We would like to invite you to be a guest speaker at one of our upcoming club meetings. Would you be interested in meeting with our club?

If yes:

Great! Our club meets on _____ at _____. Do you think this would work with your schedule in the upcoming month? Is there a certain date that works best for you?

Notes: _____
(use this line to note when your guest speaker can come to your club meeting.)

We are very excited to hear about your work with this service need. Our club advisor will contact you within the next week to confirm a club meeting date and time. Our advisor's name is _____

What email address would you like _____ to use? _____

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you soon!

If no:

We completely understand. Would you have time to answer a few questions about your work so that we can report back to our club about what your organization does and how we might be able to help?

1. What does your organization do for _____?

2. What is your role in the organization?

3. How is our community affected by this service need?

4. What services do you provide for our community?

5. Does your organization need help from the community? If so, what are the best ways that clubs such as ours can join your efforts?

6. If our club chooses to help your organization with a service project, would it be OK for us to contact you again? If so, what is the best way to contact you?

Thank you for your time and information. We greatly appreciate all that you do for our community.

Follow up

Report back to club officers and advisors about your conversation. If the advisor needs to confirm a date and time for the guest speaker, let officers know right away. If your contact can't visit the club but answered your questions, ask officers if you can report your findings at the next meeting.

If the person you contacted didn't return the call or said "no" to helping, don't be disappointed. Just by asking, you're displaying leadership skills—and you're working to make a difference in your community!