

Planning for the Unexpected



This activity will allow members to:

- Embrace and prepare for failure.
- Practice resilience and problem solving.
- Collaborate in groups.

Materials needed:

- Flip-chart paper
- Markers
- One index card per member

How to lead this activity:

No matter how much your club plans for your service project, there is bound to be at least one detail (maybe more) that doesn't go as planned. This doesn't mean that your service project will fail. It just means that your club should be ready to respond with a great attitude and eagerness to solve the problem.

1. Before the club meeting, write each of the following quotes on a separate piece of flip-chart paper and place them around the room for everyone to see:
 - a. "If Plan A didn't work, there are 25 other letters in the alphabet. Stay cool!"
 - b. "Tough times don't last. Tough people do."
 - c. "When something goes wrong, yell 'plot twist' and change the plan."
 - d. "Sometimes things have to go wrong in order to go right."
2. Explain to the club how every great plan has at least one detail that doesn't go as planned. Remind them that great leaders smile, show determination in the face of the unexpected and find a way to succeed. So the Builders Club needs to prepare for things that might go wrong and determine how they will respond.
3. Ask members to read each of the quotes posted around the room. Instruct them to choose the quote that they like the best and stand next to that quote.
4. Have each member describe what he/she likes about the quote.
5. Ask each member to take a few minutes to write the quote on an index card and decorate it.

6. Tell each member to bring his/her index card to every club meeting and activity— and to the service project. Whenever they see another member feeling bad because something is not going as planned, they should hand that person the index card and remind him/her that members can work together and turn things around.
7. Ask members to discuss possible service project details that might go wrong—and how the club can prepare now. Here are a few examples of what could go wrong and how the club can plan for the unexpected:
 - The weather might not cooperate for an outdoor event. The club should have a “rain plan” for the event.
 - The club did not meet its fundraising goal for the service project. The club should find ways to cut the budget or plan a second fundraiser.
 - A member is sick the day of the event and cannot complete his/her duties. The club members should work together to complete the task(s).

