

Choose a Community Need

In this activity (featured in the *Service Toolkit*):

All that research your club has done is about to pay off! Members will share what they learned about a need and “pitch” support for their cause, and listen to teammates do the same. Then it’s time to vote! Lead members through this active experience as the club chooses a need for your next service project to address with action.

This activity allows members to:

- Reflect on what needs interest them most.
- Practice presentation / pitch delivery skills.
- Practice active listening and respect for teammates.
- Reach consensus.
- Develop a list of to ranked needs to use now and in the future.

Materials needed:

- Members’ completed Service Project Interview Guides
- One “Pitch My Need & Listen to Others” worksheet per member (see end of activity)
- Pens or pencils
- Masking tape
- Copy paper
- Sticky notes
- Broad tip markers

How to lead this activity:


PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

1. Read this activity. Complete your “Pitch My…” worksheet and be prepared to model a *pitch* before members prepare for theirs.
2. Determine with the advisor if this activity will take two meetings to complete (based on your club’s number of members).
3. Send email reminders to members about completing their interviews and bringing their completed “Service Project Interview Guide” to the meeting.
4. Officers should arrive at least 10 minutes early to prepare for the meeting.
 - a. On each piece of copy paper, in larger lettering, write one need from the Need Categories (from worksheet at end of this activity).
 - b. Tape the pages around the meeting room, where they are visible.
 - c. Distribute worksheets, sticky notes and markers across the room for all members.

AT THE MEETING:

- I. Congratulate members on their hard work. Share that it’s time now for members to:
 - a. Share a little research they gathered during interviews and the need that most interests them.
 - b. Then, reach consensus over a need that the club will address with a service project.

2. Ask a member to read the instructions for the “Pitch My...” worksheet.
3. Ask members to take out their completed Interview Guides. Say they have 15 minutes to complete the worksheet and prepare to present their pitch! Remind them when 10 minutes and 5 minutes remain.
4. Each member gives up to a two-minute pitch that presents his/her/their interview findings, choice of a need, and an idea for a service project that can address the need. You or another club officer should go first, so the other members see how it works and feel comfortable with the time limit.
5. After each presentation, the member should place a note (with their name on it) on the notepaper that lists that particular need category that they choose to vote for. It does not have to be their pitch need! This is a fun way for everyone to see where the club’s interests and passions lie.
6. After everyone has presented, let them know they have five minutes to change their vote and move their note to another Need Category if they heard a great pitch from a team member or learned about another need that changed their mind.
7. A club officer will tally the number of votes (sticky notes with names) that each Need Category received. [If there’s a tie, members with their names on those needs, should vote again on the tied options until a winner emerges.]
8. The Need Category with the most votes wins for the club’s next service project!!
9. Let members know there’s a *BONUS: This process provided a ranked list of other community needs that members researched and voted on to use for future service projects!* Ask the secretary to record the top five service needs. This list will be handy in the future when the club is ready to begin new projects.
10. **Ask members to turn in their completed (1) Service Project Interview Guides and (2) Pitch My Need & Listen to Others worksheet.** Ask the advisor to keep these in a folder for use in future activities.



RALLY THE SCHOOL! To get the entire school aware of your Builders Club and invested in your service project, work with your principal to send the club’s top ranked causes to the entire school to vote on the need they feel is most pressing

PITCH MY NEED...

Member: _____

You interviewed people from across the community, learned about local needs, and collected ideas for service that your club can do. It's time to share what you learned and advocate for the need that most interests you AND that also serves an authentic need.

On this worksheet: Record your thoughts to each question below. Get ready to teach others something you learned, to pitch your community need to the club, and to reflect active listening by sharing something you learned about another member's need.

★ An important thing I learned about our community from an interview that I want others to know:

▮ This does not have to be about the need you are pitching support for. It should be significant.

The community need I would like our club to choose is _____.

A few important things to know about this need are:

One example of a Builders Club service project that I know from a community member would help address this need is:

and LISTEN TO OTHERS

A need that a team member pitched that now seems important also: _____

And something I learned about it is:

Categories of Needs and Causes

Animal welfare
Bullying prevention
Civic education and voting
Disaster relief
Domestic violence
Drug and alcohol addiction
Education and literacy
Elder care
Environment and climate change
Equity and inclusion

Gender equity
Health and wellness
Homelessness and housing
Hunger, food insecurity and nutrition
LGBTQ+ rights
Poverty and living wage
Safety and violence
Veterans and military
Water access
Other: _____

Identify the Need

Identify the Need

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