

Investigate!

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

Now that your club has determined what need it will be working to serve through your next service project, it's time to learn more about it! It is vital to do research to understand the issue, learn what organizations and agencies are doing to address it, and brainstorm ideas for possible club service projects. You will lead members as they work in groups to investigate the need! They will find good articles and information and share what they learned through brief presentations. Go teams!

These activities will allow members to:

- Learn how their chosen need impacts the community.
- Learn about related organizations in the community.
- Practice working collaboratively in groups.
- Reflect on the information they gathered about the need.

Materials needed:

- Computers, tablets or cell phones for all or at least a few members
- One Investigation & Findings worksheet for each member (see end of activity).
- From advisor: Members' completed (1) Service Project Interview Guides and (2) Pitch My Need & Listen to Others worksheets.

How to lead this activity:

PRIOR TO THE MEETING:

1. Invite your Kiwanis Advisor to visit and participate in this activity.
2. Ask the club advisor for the Members' completed (1) Service Project Interview Guides and (2) Pitch My Need & Listen to Others worksheets. Review the documents. Separate all interview and pitch documents that contain information about:
 - a. The need the club is focusing on,
 - b. Places that address the need, and
 - c. Ideas for service projects around that need.

AT THE MEETING:

1. Congratulate members on their hard work choosing a service need.
2. Share that the purpose of the upcoming activities in the step, Develop the Understanding, is for members to:
 - a. Learn more about the need and how it affects the community, and
 - b. Decide what type of service project the club could create to meet that need.
3. Give each member an Investigation & Findings worksheet. And distribute half of the completed Interview guides and Pitch worksheets you separated for the activity to each of the advisors (or the advisor and a club officer).
4. Divide members into two groups:

- a. Ask group #1 to focus on “How this community need affects our school and community”; the Kiwanis advisor or a club officer will assist this group.
 - b. Group #2 will research “What places and resources exist in our school and community to aid this service need”; the club advisor will assist this group.
5. Instruct each group to follow the handout directions. The advisors (or officer) working with each group will review the documents handed to him/her/them and take share relevant information and ideas with the group. Then he/she/they will trade for the stack of documents the other group’s advisor has. The advisor will repeat the review of the second stack of documents and will again share any information and ideas with the group.
6. Allow enough time for group’s to investigate, discuss and prepare to share their findings.
7. Ask each group to present what they learned. Suggest to members that, during the presentations, they write down interesting details they learn from the other group on their worksheet.
8. After each group’s presentation, ask the following:
 - a. What organizations, agencies, businesses work on this need?
 - b. Which of these possible community partners interest us the most?
 - c. Which ones can help us learn more?
 - d. How is our school affected by this need?
9. After both groups have presented, **ask members to turn in their completed Investigation & Findings worksheets.**
10. Explain that members will review their worksheets at the next meeting. Then the club will plan how to contact possible partners to learn more about the service need and how it affects the school and community.
11. Thank the members for their investigative work!

Investigation & Findings worksheet Member: _____

Congratulations! Your Builders Club has successfully chosen a service need. Now, before designing a service project, it's important to research the need and how it affects your community. It's also time to start to research potential community partners. Learning is key to making sure to create a project with impact!

The community need our club will address is _____.

Work as a group and use this worksheet. Follow these steps and record your findings:

1. Read the instructions listed for your group. (The outlined work will help you answer your group's main question).
2. Then get to the work listed there and write your findings on the worksheet.
3. Your advisor/officer will also share information from the club's research during interviews and pitch presentations; record what the group finds most important below.
4. Prepare to make a brief presentation, determining what each group member will share.
5. The group makes a brief presentation about their findings to the club.
6. During the other group's presentation, listen actively and write down interesting details you learn on other group section and bottom section of this worksheet.

Group 1: How does this service need affect our school and community?

Find the websites for your local United Way and community foundations. Explore each site for data on the need, information on need-related organizations or programs, and other resources. **What did you learn?**

Find three to five articles to read about the need and, specifically, the need in your community. First search your local newspaper's website. In the search bar, enter your service need (and try synonyms and phrases). If you don't find articles, do a general Google search with the need + your community name + state name. Keep doing searches until you find three to five articles; list them below. Split up the articles and read. **What did you learn about (1) the need, (2) the need *in* your community, and (3) organizations mentioned?**

Group 2: What exists in our school and community to aid this service need?

Search your town or city’s website for nonprofit organizations, government agencies, businesses and leaders connected to the service need. Also do a general Google search with the need + your community name + state name. List the names you find here:

Choose a place that supports this service need. Answer the following:

First organization, agency or business:

What is its mission or purpose?

Who can you contact to learn more, and how do you reach him/her/them?

What services or products does the place provide to help the service need?

Second organization, agency or business:

What is its mission or purpose?

Who can you contact to learn more, and how do you reach him/her/them?

What services or products does the place provide to help the service need?

GROUP 1 and GROUP 2:

Use the boxes below to reflect on findings from your group’s research, as well as what you learned during the othergroup’s presentation.

What organizations would you like to learn more about?

What did you hear about (service ideas and ways the need is addressed) that you feel the club should consider?