

Youth Launch Leaders

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2016

Service Projects: The Problem with Good Intentions



All service projects start with the intent of helping communities, organizations, and people. Groups get inspired to help and often move quickly to offer their support without considering all aspects of the situation. While service should always be encouraged, you should challenge the youth you work with to consider community needs, issues, and the long term success of the projects.

Community needs is a large concept to assess and comprehend. Organizations often spend lots of money and time trying to understand these needs. Encourage youth groups to reach out to community-serving organizations to gather information and ideas from previously completed community needs assessments. Once they have the information, a dialogue should take place about which problems the group can have an impact on and are within the scope of their abilities.

Another important aspect to completing service projects is considering the positive and negative long-term impacts. Be sure to look at the number of people the project affects and what will happen if the project is not completed. Do not forget to think

about the cost of maintenance, upkeep and who

will complete these tasks. Leaving your

community with an obligation that they can't

maintain is the opposite effect that your group is intend-

ing. Talk with community groups about plans for the future before carrying out your project.

With some planning and input from your community, your service projects can not only be successful for your group, but can become a true asset and something that is valued for years to come.



Contact Us

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Connecting Asset to Service

Assets are the building blocks of positive youth development. By connecting assets to service leadership projects, you can maximizing the benefits to the youth involved.

