

Inspiration stage: Seeds of service family project

“Passion is infectious and if a youth feels strongly about service or a cause, others will join him/her.” ~ Matthew Kaplan founder of The Be One Project

OBJECTIVES

While having youth participate in one day service projects is an excellent way to teach them how to make a difference, involving youth in the investigation and planning stages of a service project can have an even bigger impact. As an advisor, you can inspire your club members to become stronger leaders by involving them from the very beginning of each service project. The beginning steps of a service project are referred to as the **investigation process**. The first step in the investigation process is becoming inspired or the **inspiration stage**.

At the end of this activity, K-Kids members will:

1. Recognize an area of interest—his or her passion
2. Identify how they could help this cause (outside of the club)
3. Outline a plan of how they will investigate this cause

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The first step in the **investigation process** of a service project is becoming inspired about a cause or service project, the **inspiration stage**. During this stage, advisors can help students find their passion and identify what matters to them. This worksheet is a tool for club members to brainstorm what inspires them and identify why they are passionate about a cause.

The service project theme of “planting the seeds of service” has already been established as a way for students to stay involved with service outside of the club meetings and activities—and the school year. Starting the investigation stage now will prepare your members for the



family service project that they will do at home with their families in April and inspire service outside of the club experience.

GUIDING THE ACTIVITY

1. Make a copy of worksheet. One for each club member.
2. Lead a discussion with your club members. Ask these types of questions to help members identify their passion, understand the difference they can each make, and begin to brainstorm what service they can provide outside of school:

What do you care about?

What can you do to make a difference?

What impact or difference can one person really make?

What will you do make an impact outside of the club activities?

Reinforce that club members should not underestimate the difference they each can make. To make the most significant impact, club members should invest in researching an issue and planning a project. Ultimately, if you can help a student identify what they are passionate about and excite them, they will be more invested in the success of the service project and it will have a greater impact.

3. The worksheet can be a tool in this process of personal investigation. Depending on the available time and students' abilities, this worksheet can be completed independently or through discussion. At the end of the process, each student should have identified an area of interest (ex: animals), know how they could help this cause, and have a plan of how they will investigate the options of serving this cause outside of the club.
4. Encourage members to continue researching and planning how they will make an impact to their cause. Ask them to talk to their family members about how they can help with the service project as well.



Seeds of service family project worksheet

Inspiration stage worksheet

As a member of K-Kids, I have participated in service projects with my club, and now I am excited to continue service outside of the club. To help better identify what I care about (my passion) and how I can help (through service), answer these questions:

1. What service projects or causes have I enjoyed helping the most?

2. Are there any other service projects or causes that I would be interested in getting involved with?

3. What do I like to do? What am I good at?

4. How can I use my interests and talents to make a difference?

5. Outside of K-Kids, what cause would I like to help?

6. How can I get my family members involved with this service project?

Make a plan. On the back, identify 5 things you can do to learn more about this cause and identify how you can get involved.

