



Develop the understanding

You've done a great job leading your club to a smart decision on an issue that members want to address! In IDEA's second step, **Develop the Understanding**, members research why the service need exists, learn about the issue, and decide on what type of service project they want to do.

Here are the three things you will help your club accomplish through this section's activities:

1. Research your chosen service need and learn from an expert who can teach you about the issue in your school or community.
2. Learn about different types of service and brainstorm service project ideas.
3. Decide on a service project that will meet the need your club has chosen.

Advisors and club officers, be prepared to lead Develop the Understanding activities by reviewing the completed Our Club IDEA Service Plan (on page 3).

INVESTIGATING THE NEED

To help club members learn about the need, it's important to do research to see how the need affects your community. Then your club can get ideas for places to partner with for service.

In this activity: Your club will do research to learn about the need and about places in your community that provide programs and services that address this need.

Before the activity:

1. An officer or advisor will compile a list of places from those (1) drawn on the club's Community Map and (2) written in the completed Service Needs Interview Forms.
2. Write the places' names on the whiteboard, separating them into two lists.



Supplies needed:

- Six copies of the Investigations worksheet.
- Smart devices and internet access.
- White board.

How to lead this activity:

1. Separate members into three groups.
2. Hand two Investigations worksheets to each group. Make sure all members have a smart device to do research online.
3. Read instructions for Group 1:
 - Choose a member to read aloud the questions under "Investigating the Need in our Community" and fill them out after group discussion.
 - Find your local newspaper or news station's website. In the search bar, enter the service need. Try using phrases and similar words to find articles about this issue.
 - Choose two good articles; discuss and answer the worksheet questions for each article.
4. Give half of the list of places to Group 2 and half to Group 3. Read these instructions to them:
 - Choose a member to read aloud the questions under "Investigating Places Helping the Need" and fill them out after group discussion.
 - Briefly explore the websites for each place on the list and choose two that the group thinks could be a place to do a service project.
 - Do research on the places to find answers to the worksheet's questions.

5. Have Group 1 share what it learned about the need in your community.
6. Have Groups 2 and 3 share what they learned about their places.
7. Have members vote for the places they would like to learn more about and possibly work with for their service project.

After the meeting: The advisor and officers will decide which of the members' top two choices to contact and invite to speak at the club's next meeting.

INVESTIGATIONS

Member notetaker: _____

INVESTIGATING PLACES HELPING THE NEED

Place name: _____

WHAT is the organization or agency's *mission* (purpose): _____

WHAT programs/activities it offers to help with this need: _____

WHAT is one thing you learned about the need on the website: _____

WHO is the contact person: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

INVESTIGATING THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Name of article: _____

WHAT are a few things you learned about the need in your community: _____

Names of organizations or people in the article that we can contact to learn more: _____
