

Take-Action Project vs Community Service Project

What is the Difference Between a Take-Action Project and a Community Service Project?

Girl Scout **Community Service projects** are acts of kindness and important ways to help something or someone right now. They are commonly “one and done” activities. Performing community service almost always multiplies efforts that are already in place. Examples include collecting food for an existing food pantry, providing clothing or toiletries to people who have suffered a disaster, cleaning up a run-down playground, or picking up trash at a park, forest, or beach.

Girl Scout **Take-Action projects** address an issue by tackling the factors that cause or contribute to it. As you may expect, these projects have a far-reaching impact. They are designed to change something for the better in a sustainable way.

Sustainability

A sustainable project lives on in the community after a girl’s involvement ends.

A focus on education and raising awareness is one way to make sure a project is carried on. Workshops and hands-on learning sessions can inspire others to keep the project going. Another way to create a sustainable project is by collaborating with community groups, civic associations, non-profit agencies, local government, and/or religious organizations to ensure the project lasts beyond the girl’s involvement.

Here are some examples of Take-Action projects that will last:

Take Action Project #1

- **Problem:** Kids can’t walk to school safely because there aren’t any sidewalks.
- **Root cause:** Lack of planning when the roads were built.
- **Solution with long-term impact:** Create a petition asking that a sidewalk be built, get local residents to sign it, and present it to the city council.
- **Making the solution sustainable:**
 - Once the sidewalk is built, it will be in place for years, offering a safe route for future generations.
 - You may need to encourage kids to change their habits and walk—that can be a fun group activity.

Take Action Project #2

- **Problem:** Children in homeless shelters often struggle in school.
- **Root cause:** Lack of stability and family resources, both financial and emotional.
- **Solution with long-term impact:** Work with a local homeless shelter and school to establish an ongoing tutoring program that matches student volunteers with children in the shelter.
- **Making the solution sustainable:**
 - Work with the school and shelter to find adult staff members who will continue to coordinate the program.
 - Establish a transition tradition, such as an end-of-schoolyear party, where potential new student volunteers can meet current volunteers and people in the homeless shelter.