



Adviser Networking

Questions about Community Service

Use the below questions to start conversation and gain valuable information about what your peers are doing in their chapters.

- 1) What type of Community Service projects is your chapter involved in?
 - a. Are they long-term or short-term?
 - b. Can non-FCCLA members participate?

- 2) Who initiates the project ideas in your chapter?
 - a. Do the advisers choose the projects or the students?
 - b. Do you vote on which projects to undertake? What system of selection is used?

- 3) What incentives, if any, do you promote to students to participate in Community Service projects?
 - a. Are they mandatory or voluntary?
 - b. Which is more effective?

- 4) How do you measure the success/impact of your involvement?
 - a. Do students create a follow-up survey or evaluation?
 - b. Do you apply for recognition/awards, or seek media support?

- 5) What are the positive impacts of your projects, not only in the community, but to the students?
 - a. What skills are students applying?
 - b. What skills are students learning?



Adviser Networking

Tips for Successful Community Service Projects

Use the below tips to enhance your chapter's activities and boost leadership development.

1) Pinpoint Specific Needs in Your Local Community.

The most effective community service projects will add something to your local community that is missing. Pinpoint a real need in your school or community that students can be part of solving. This requires pre-planning, research, and perhaps more time at the forefront; however finding the correct project for your local community, no matter the size of the population, can have a huge impact.

2) Balance Student Resources and Community Need.

Keeping in mind your resources, chapter size, and level of commitment, selecting projects that are engaging and everyone can play a part is an important aspect. This may include selecting projects with varying time commitments: from a one-time community clean-up, to weekly tutoring lesson. Students will appreciate the opportunity to participate in more than one type of project, or in a project that is varied in structure.

3) Delegate Authority—Let Students Plan the Projects.

Make sure your students are playing a critical role in selecting and planning the projects.

4) Seek Support and Collaboration.

Students may be required to participate in service activities through other organizations or commitments, so help students to incorporate these factors into their projects. For smaller chapters, this may mean collaborating with another student organization to carry out a larger service project. All chapters should consider seeking support from local business for funding. This can carry over into other aspects of your chapters' activities.

5) Follow Up with Results.

Serving the community is great no matter how many we reach, but to publicize, promote, and gain support for the hard work you have done requires measurable results. This means you should keep records about number of people served, amount of goods collected, number of people who participated, number of hours spent on the project, and so forth. An evaluation or survey is also highly recommended as the final stage of any project.