

## **Module 3: Community Action Project**

The Community Action Project is a practical project to be undertaken by participants for a minimum of 20 hours. This should be undertaken in a voluntary capacity and should present participants with an authentic opportunity to practice the leadership skills gained throughout Modules 1 and 2.

The Community Action Project should not be something participants do as part of school, rather it should be something that they are doing as a volunteer i.e. not getting paid for. Work experience in a care home or equivalent does not count if it is part of the school curriculum, however can count if they continue it on afterwards in a voluntary capacity.

It is suggested that the Community Action Project continues on from the individual Leadership Goal set in Module 1 or the group research project undertaken in Module 2 however this is not mandatory.

Participants can work individually or in groups for their Community Action Project. Where young people are coming together in groups, it is essential that everyone has an opportunity to use their skills. Learning journals and portfolios must be completed individually, highlighted the individuals contribution to the project and the specific learning they gained from being part of the project.

Facilitators<sup>1</sup> should meet with participants regularly to provide support and encouragement as needed. The duration over which the project will run will vary and meetings times should be negotiated between participants and facilitators/mentors. As an example, the group could meet after every five hours of the Community Action Project to update learning journals and discuss project progress. Facilitators/Mentors do not need to be present for the 20 hours of the Community Action Project. The first page of the Learning Journal is a tool for facilitators to monitor the Community Action Project.

### **Examples of Community Action Projects**

Participants are encouraged to choose a Community Action Project that they are interested in and passionate about. Some examples of past projects include:

- Fundraising for or volunteering with a charity
- Visiting a local nursing home
- Community clean up

<sup>1</sup> In the case of participants completing Modules 1 and 2 at the Leadership Conference in Maynooth and proceeding with Module 3; they are required to nominate a 'mentor' who will offer guidance throughout Module 3. It is preferable that this person is trained in Leadership, but not essential

Passing on a skill to others, for example: soccer, dance etc.

Responding to a local issue

Volunteering with a local youth club or youth café

Organising a local event whereby monies raised are donated to charity

Establishing a junior club in their area

Mentoring younger club members in your local sports clubs

Getting involved with a local community organisation such as Tidy Towns etc

Promoting or highlighting a cause that that you are passionate about

## **Learning Journal**

A learning journal should be kept by participants throughout the process of completing their Community Action Project. There are three parts to the learning journal:

### **1. Background to the Community Action Project**

This should be completed at the beginning of the project

### **2. Ongoing Reflection**

This section should be completed on an ongoing basis throughout the project. Within the Learning Journal, there are reflective questions to be completed after approximately every five hours of the project. This way, progress throughout the project can be tracked.

### **3. Overall Reflection**

This should be completed at the end of the project or before the work is submitted if the project is ongoing.

You can download and print the Learning Journal [HERE](#)

## **Portfolio**

The portfolio is the documentation of the Community Action Project and should be between 500 and 1000 words in length. There is no set format for the portfolio and participants are encouraged to be as creative as possible. The portfolio should be **A4 size** and presented in either a scrapbook or folder. The portfolio should detail:

The **Background to the Project**, for example: any research that took place or why the project was chosen.

The **Work Undertaken**.

**Evaluation and Learning** from the Community Action Project and how this relates to leadership.

**Plans for the Future** as a result of the Community Action Project

The above headings may be used to assist participants in completing the portfolio.

**Important:** Emphasis should be placed on how the Community Action Project links to the leadership skills gained throughout the entire programme.