COMMUNITY ACTION JOURNAL

Name: ________________________________

Grade: ___________ School: ________________________________
You have the **POWER** to help your community when you **THINK**, **LEARN**, and **TAKE ACTION**. We want to hear your **VOICE** and your **IDEAS**.

**WHAT DOES COMMUNITY MEAN TO YOU?**

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**DRAW A PICTURE OF YOUR COMMUNITY!**
1) Think about something or someone that makes your heart happy.
2) Draw a picture of your “something beautiful.”
Something Beautiful Story

1) Think about something or someone that makes your heart happy.
2) Write a short story or a poem about your “something beautiful.”

Title: 

My something beautiful is...

_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
_________________________________________
My Logo

1) Think about your skill and abilities.
2) Draw pictures or symbols below that represent you and your skills.
MY STRENGTHS AND STRUGGLES

1) I am good at...

2) I struggle with...

3) My favorite thing about school is...

4) The most stressful part of my day is...

5) I’d like some help with...
COMMUNITY STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

1) Things in my community that make me happy are...


2) Places where I feel safe in my community are...


3) Places where I don’t feel safe in my community are...


4) The people who help my community are...


5) To make my community better we need...


1) Think about the things that are most important to you and your community.
2) Draw pictures or symbols below that represent you and your community.
3) Write 1 or 2 things that are most important to you and your community.

Example #1
Example #2

The most important thing to me and my community is...

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________
Service-Learning Project Stories

Project Story #1 - Welcoming Refugees
SCORES Team A worked together with a local organization that supports refugee and immigrant women and their families. They invited the Director of the organization to their classroom as a guest speaker (the Director was also a refugee) to tell her story about leaving home and settling in a new country. This reinforced the students’ research about the challenges refugees and immigrants face. The students then created a PSA (public service announcement) video that was shared throughout their school to explain the challenges refugees and immigrants face and to gather donations for a food drive. To do this, they first wrote a script and then acted it out and recorded it. They also created posters to hang around the school that displayed the facts they learned and information about the food drive. Lastly, they hosted their food drive and donated the collections to the same local organization, who in turn distributed it to refugee and immigrant families.

Project Story #2 - Poetry at the Nursing Home
SCORES Team B volunteered at a nearby nursing home, teaching poetry and spending time with the elderly residents. Students looked at poems they had written in previous SCORES seasons to figure out the best way to teach someone about poetry. Then, they went to the nursing home to meet the residents and teach them about poetry. They performed their original poems then shared comic strips they drew that showed their lives before and after they started writing poetry. The students visited again the following week and led creative writing activities with the residents. They listened to the residents’ life stories and helped turn them into poetry. This team ended their project with a public performance of the poetry they created together with the residents of the nursing home.

Project Story #3 - Ending Hunger
SCORES Team C researched hunger issues facing their community and found that a large number of students like themselves did not have access to healthy meals at school. The team held a Hunger Workshop to educate a group of younger students about hunger issues present in their community. At the end of the workshop, they used a recipe from the local food pantry to make trail mix. They then put the trail mix into individual serving bags and donated them to the local food pantry, which would give the snacks to students who needed them. They wrote letters to council members (part of their city’s government) to ask them to pass a law that would make sure more students get healthy meals at school.

Project Story #4 - Reducing Litter
SCORES Team D studied the impact of litter in their community by making a map that showed the amount of litter in the park down the street from their school. They wondered what was causing the litter problem at the park so they decided to survey the people at the park to get more information. Through their surveys they discovered that there were not enough trash cans throughout the park for everyone to put their trash. They created a petition asking the city to install more trash cans, then went out as a team to collect signatures from local community members. The team then wrote a news article explaining the litter problem in the park, what they learned about the causes and effects of littering, and why it is important to install additional trash cans at the park. They sent the article and petition to their local government officials and also sent the article to the editor of the local newspaper.
### Community Action Ideas

1) Below on the left, write 1 or 2 issues your care about or problems you see.
2) Can you think of 1 or 2 things you could do to make your community better? Write your “Action Ideas” on the right side below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues/Problems</th>
<th>Action Ideas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>For example:</strong></td>
<td><strong>For example:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An issue I care about is… pollution. The problem is that people and companies litter and create pollution that makes our rivers, oceans, and lakes dirty.</td>
<td>We could write a letter to the governor asking him to not allow big businesses to waste water and make pollution. We could teach people about why clean water is so important. We could write a poem about how pollution affects all living things, make a video of the poem, and share it on social media.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An issue I care about is…

To make it better we could…

A problem I see is…

To make it better we could…
# Research Scavenger Hunt

## Part 1

1. What issue is your team working on?

2. Who does your issue affect?

3. How many people does your issue affect?

4. Where is your issue a problem?

5. What is a statistic or a number that tells about your issue?

6. What is another statistic or a number that tells about your issue?
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7. Can you find an organization that helps with your issue? What is it called?</td>
<td>8. What does that organization do to help address your issue?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. What is the biggest barrier the organization faces in working to address the issue?</td>
<td>10. Can you volunteer with the organization? Y/N Do they have a wish list? Y/N Name 3 things on the wish list:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Other things I learned:</td>
<td>12 Other things I learned:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Service-Learning Project Overview

School Name: SCORES Team A

Project Plan

**Preparation** - How did you decide on your project topic?

We recently had several refugee families move into our neighborhood and the team voted that they would like to focus on how to best help and support them.

**Research** - List the resources you used and any community contacts that you used (or might use) to gather information.

Students researched the challenges refugees and their families face. They also researched local organizations working on this issue and found a local group to work with.

**Action**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Title:</th>
<th>Welcoming Our New Neighbors</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Goal:</td>
<td>Work with local orgs to support refugee and immigrant families. At the end we will host a food drive for local organism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What Type(s) of Action did you choose to take? Check all that apply.

- [x] Awareness
- [ ] Service
- [ ] Advocacy
- [ ] Philanthropy

Which related Action Activities are you planning to do?

- [ ] Letters (2 days)
- [ ] Surveys (2 days)
- [ ] Posters (2 days)
- [ ] News Articles (2 days)
- [ ] PSA Videos (3 days)
- [ ] Petitions (2 days)
- [ ] Comic Strips (2 days)
- [ ] Guest Speakers and Field Trips (2 days)
- [ ] Action Day/Event (1 day)
- [ ] Other: Food drive
- [ ] Other: Food drive

**Reflection** - How will you share your project with your school community?

We have been taking photos/videos throughout and will create a digital slideshow that will stream on the welcome screen at the front of school. We will also show this when we donate the food.
## Service-Learning Project Overview

**School Name:** ________________________________

### Project Plan

#### Preparation - How did you decide on your project topic?

#### Research - List the resources you used and any community contacts that you used (or might use) to gather information.

### Action

**Project Title:** ________________________________

**Project Goal:** ________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What Type(s) of Action did you choose to take?</th>
<th>Which related Action Activities are you planning to do?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Awareness</td>
<td>☐ Letters (2 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Service</td>
<td>☐ Surveys (2 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Advocacy</td>
<td>☐ Posters (2 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Philanthropy</td>
<td>☐ News Articles (2 days)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Petitions (2 days)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Comic Strips (2 days)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Reflection - How will you share your project with your school community?
Sample Project Action Plan

Project Concept: To raise support and awareness for the homeless during the cold winter months.

Project Title: *Bundle Up Against the Cold: A Blanket Drive for the 7th Street Shelter*

Project Goal: To hold a blanket drive within our school community. Donated blankets are donated to a local homeless shelter.

Project Action Plan:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TASKS</th>
<th>DUE DATE</th>
<th>RESPONSIBLE PARTIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get permission from the principal to hold the blanket drive:</td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>Whole Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Write him a letter asking for permission and explaining what we are trying to do.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Type the letter on the computer, then edit and deliver.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make posters for blanket drive:</td>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Facts: Miguel, Kendrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Make a list of facts to go on the posters.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Materials: Mr. Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Gather poster board, markers and tape.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Poster Design: Jose, Juan, Alex, Franklin, Kevin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Design five posters and make them.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Poster Support: Whole team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hang up the posters in prominent places around the school.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call the shelter to get the details on delivering the donation.</td>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>Michael, Ricardo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make poem books to give out to people who donate blankets.</td>
<td>June 1</td>
<td>Whole team</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Team Project Action Plan

**Project Concept:**


---

**Project Title:**


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**Project Goal:**


---

**Project Action Plan:**

<table>
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Action Activity Planner

This Action Planner should be used by the team at the beginning of each Action Activity. With a planning sheet, the team can gather all of the information needed to complete a certain action that leads to the bigger overall goal of your project.

Action Activity: ________________________

Action Activity Goal: ________________________

How does the action contribute to the goal of the project?

Objectives:

Who will be involved?

What are you going to do?

Where will it happen?

When will it happen?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Which Job?</th>
<th>Who?</th>
<th>By when?</th>
<th>What do we need?</th>
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<tr>
<td>Example: write script</td>
<td>Everyone</td>
<td>Next 2 classes</td>
<td>Pencils, notebooks</td>
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**What** are you going to do?

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1) Imagine that you could borrow some money to start a business.
2) Think of an idea for what you would do with the money. How will your business make money? Who will you help with the money you make?
3) Draw a picture of your business idea.
Big Idea, Big Plan

1) Imagine that you could borrow some money to start a business.
2) Think of an idea for what you would do with the money.
3) Write a plan or a story about your business idea. How will the business make money? Who will you help with the money you make?

Business name:

With the money I borrow, I will...

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________

_________________________________________
**PROJECT REFLECTION**

1) Think about your community project and how it went.
2) Answer the questions below!

1) **How did you help your community?**

2) **Who did you help? How did it make you feel?**

3) **What was great about the project and what wasn’t so great?**

4) **What can you do next to continue working on your project?**
**Project Reflection**

1) Think about your community project and how it went.
2) Write down any other thoughts, ideas, or questions you may have.

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________
BONUS:
PROJECT
IDEAS
Transform Your Idea Into a Project

People you will help
- One person
- A group of people
- Other students
- Younger children
- Families
- Community members (i.e., people who use the rec center or people who use the library)

Helpers
- Specialists
- Teachers/Coaches
- Public officials
- Families
- Business owners
- Friends

Brainstorm
- Who needs help?
- What needs improvement?
- What can you raise awareness about?
- Social attitudes you hope to change?
- Systems you can affect?
- Consider various perspectives!

Partners
- Community Centers
- Libraries
- Schools
- Sports Teams
- Local Businesses
- Churches
- Other Non-Profits

Idea

Direct Action
- Clean up
- Gather/donate items
- Raise funds
- Create handmade items
  ▪ Bookmarks
  ▪ Recycled goods
- Beautify
- Serve
- Gather pledges
- Volunteer time
- Meet new people
- Write a petition
- Teach
  ▪ Posters
  ▪ Video
  ▪ Skits
  ▪ Comics
  ▪ Poems
  ▪ Performance
- Establish/Join a kids’ club or organization

Indirect Action
- Gather information
- Interviews
- Surveys
- Research
- Raise Awareness:
  ▪ Posters
  ▪ Letters
  ▪ Poems
- Reflections/learnings
- Thank you’s
- Publish
- Donate
- Photos
- Displays

Actions

Audiences

Sharing
(see next page)
Ideas for Sharing your Project with the Community

1. **Short stories/poems:** “Project Stories” offer several creative writing options to highlight your project. Students can relate their feelings regarding the process (e.g., empowerment, hopefulness, hopelessness, etc.).

2. Perform a **dramatic reading** of the Project Stories.

3. **Assign a team of reporters** (1-4 members) to document the team project. Tasks include interviews, documenting comments or specific steps of the process, creative writing activities, and writing articles to submit to the school newsletter or local paper. Document lists of quotes, ideas, outcomes, failures, and successes.

4. **Write a skit or play** about your project for the team to perform at school assemblies and/or at the Jamboree! The skit might explain the problem and show a solution, or it might show the problem and what will happen if nothing is done.

5. **Songs:** Have students use their poetry skills to write a song about their community project. Use a song or beat they know for the tune or rhythm. Make a video of your class performing the song.

6. Make **postcards** about your community project. Put pictures on one side and information on the other. Put them together in a postcard book or find another way to display them so that people can look at both sides.

7. Create a **collage** about your community project. Incorporate drawings, pictures from magazines, newspaper articles, and student writing.

8. Create a **photo essay.** For this one to work you need to take pictures throughout the season. Take pictures of your class as you do the project. Have students write down where the pictures are taken, who is in them and the time and the date for each one. Put them on a display board with captions to let people know all about the project.

9. Create a **giant project timeline.** Include how you identified the problem and all the steps you took to solve it. Use pictures and illustrations to make it look enticing.

10. Make a **team book** about your project. Talk about the problem and how you solved it. Each student can be responsible for one page.

11. Make a **tri-fold display board** about your project. Include student writing, photos, and drawings. Display in school main lobby or lunchroom, the local library, a local business that supported the project, or a SCORES sponsor place of business.

12. Create **stickers or labels** with an inspirational message about the issue. Attach the stickers to lollipops or pencils and pass them out at school.

13. Make a **documentary** about the project. Describe the process, specific steps taken and the outcomes. Share it with the community.

14. Create **comic strips** to communicate the issue, using art and language in tandem to convey ideas about their community.
POSTER EXAMPLES