

Before you do a service project, you want to determine where your club can most help your community. An easy way to do that is to first figure out all the places in your community where people meet. Once you figure out where people gather, you can create your own community “map.”

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED:

Online meeting:

- Download the “map” or grab a piece of paper.
- Pen or pencil.

In-person meeting:

- A large poster board or flip chart, and a volunteer to write on it.
- Pen or pencil.

ACTIVITY LEADER:

Creating your map

Ask members to:

1. Imagine they are looking down on your community from a plane.
2. Draw a circle in the middle of the map and label it “School.” See example.
3. Identify other important community buildings or meeting places.
 - If you are online, ask members to wave so you can call on them.
 - If you are meeting in person, ask people to raise their hand so you can call on them.

Be sure to include:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Schools. | Animal habitats. |
| Parks and playgrounds. | Hospitals. |
| Homeless shelters. | Police and fire stations. |
| Grocery stores. | Churches. |
| Places unique to your community. | |

After your map is drawn

Ask the club secretary or another member to take notes. Then ask your members:

- What makes this school and community great for students and residents?
- What makes our community great for animals?

- How do the school and community help the environment?
- What do you love most about your school and community?

Using the map, ask:

- What one thing could make the school and community a better place for all people?
- What one thing could the community do to make it a better place for animals?
- What one thing could the school and community do to improve the environment?

Time to vote:

Ask members to raise their hands to indicate which area of the community they are most interested in helping:

- Who wants to help people in our school and community?
- Who wants to help animals in our community?
- Who wants to help the environment in our community?

Once you determine where your club wants to help, ask members to think of ways they can make a difference and bring those suggestions to your next meeting. Then thank your club for helping map your community and for all their great ideas. Remind students that your club will do a couple of projects throughout the year. If their idea is not chosen now, perhaps it will be selected another time. If any members are excited about a project that does not interest the others, remind them that they can always look for ways to get involved with that cause outside of your club.