

## Seven Components of a Successful Take Action Project

Steps	Description
1. Map It - Investigate	<p>Explore community priorities and needs. Work with community partners to identify community needs and to examine the root causes of community problems. Meaningful Take Action Projects engage with the broader community in planning and shaping the project.</p> <p>&gt;There are many different ways to investigate community priorities, including community walks, examining public documents, conducting surveys, community mapping, and interviewing key leaders.</p> <p>&gt;Girls then interpret the findings from their investigation to identify community needs, root causes, solutions, and goals to determine their take action project. &gt;Work with community partners to ensure that the project is appropriate and meaningful for everyone.</p>
2. Plan It - Prepare	<p>Planning and preparation involve getting ready for all aspects of the Take Action project. Girls, volunteers, and the community partners should be active in leading and preparing for the project.</p> <p>&gt; The project plan addresses both the goals of the project as well as the sustainability and measurability, from money earning to safety to training of the participants to be successful. The plan also includes the global aspect of the project.</p> <p>&gt; Establish the goals, timeline, and processes for evaluation for the program before you begin.</p>
3. Do It - Act	<p>The action phase is often the most visible and tangible part of a Take Action Project, as it involves providing the measurable and sustainable service in the community. The primary aim is to be doing “with” the community not “for” the community. It moves social issues from girls’ heads into their hearts and hands, and it motivates them to learn and grow while also contributing to community life.</p> <p>&gt; The action phase requires clarity in expectations, assignments, and schedules. It also requires matching the girls with the appropriate tasks for their skills and maturity. Take care to manage risks while also challenging participants to grow.</p> <p>&gt; Focus on building relationships among girls and with community members while serving. Building bridges across differences is a core strategy in Taking Action.</p> <p>&gt; Collect data, artifacts, pictures, and other documentation for reflection, demonstration, celebration, and evaluation.</p>

4. Think About it - Reflect	<p>&gt; Reflection is more than talking about feelings; it should involve challenging thinking, analysis, problem solving and interpretation so that girls integrate the experience into their learning and identity. Effective reflection is crucial for quality Taking Action.</p> <p>&gt; Tie the reflection processes to your Discover, Connect, and Take Action Leadership goals.</p> <p>&gt; Girls should be engaged in selecting, designing, and leading reflection times. Utilize a variety of methods and approaches that match different learning styles.</p> <p>&gt; A basic experiential learning cycle can provide a helpful flow for reflection, providing three core reflection questions: What? So what? Now what?</p>
5. Advocate It - Demonstrate	<p>It is sometimes said that teaching is the best way to learn something. That's what Advocating is really all about; it gives girls a chance to synthesize and articulate what they have learned, why their issue is important, what difference they have made, and how they've grown through their Take Action experience. They may do this with a small audience (the leader or the group), or they may demonstrate what they've learned to key community leaders, the media, or a global audience on the Internet.</p> <p>&gt; Share the successes with community leaders, the media, and other stakeholders.</p>
6. Be Proud of It - Celebrate	<p>Complementing and reinforcing demonstration is celebration. It invites girls and partners to step back and say "thank you" to all who are involved in the Take Action efforts. It may involve public, high-energy events with media coverage. Or it may involve writing and sending a personal note to participating youth. This honoring and recognition is not just gracious; it also helps to cement the experience in girls' lives.</p>
7. Keep It Going - Sustain	<p>&gt; Sustaining focuses on making Taking Action integral in our organization while also maintaining the girls' commitment to their community and civic engagement.</p> <p>&gt; Efforts to sustain projects will need to be age/grade appropriate, and should involve thinking about the Take Action Projects to guide next efforts.</p> <p>&gt; Help girls find ways they can use their own gifts and interests to pursue their next involvement—&gt; Make evaluation an integral and essential part of the Take Action project. Not only will it help girls with continuous improvement, but it will also document the program's quality and impact for organizational leaders, funders, and other stakeholders.</p>