



SOUTH CAROLINA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LEADERS
Affiliated with National Volunteer Outreach Network, Country Women's Council, U.S.A., Associated
Country Women of the World and in partnership with Clemson University Cooperative Extension Service
SCFCL website: <http://www.scfcl.com>

Leader Training Guide

How to Find a Great Club Project

Objectives:

Club members will be able to find a project that suits their interests and abilities.

Lesson Overview/Introduction:

There are many worthwhile club projects, but not all will be successful. This lesson offers ways to insure that the project your club chooses will be one that club members will enjoy, participate in and find success with it.

Lesson:

Volunteer based service clubs often have problems choosing a club project. Club members may lose interest in projects that have been used for many years or if your club is relatively new, you may still be searching for a project. Whatever the reason for looking at new projects, it's a good idea to begin by looking first at your club members. Their interests and abilities will make or break your success. Factors such as the age of the members, their physical limitations, if they can drive and any financial or time limitations they may have, all contribute in the project selection process. Make a list of the members and their individual interests, talents and restrictions to get an overall view of their ability to complete a project. Have members think honestly about what they feel are their areas of expertise and those that they would not be comfortable attempting. You will have a lot more members participating if they are having fun and feeling that they are really contributing to its success.

Here are some projects suggested by FCL members that might fit your club.

If you have an abundance of members with crafting or sewing skills you might consider...

Making: Neck pillows for nursing home residents.

Fleece scarves for the homeless.

Wheelchair tote bags

Lap Robes

Quilts for abused children

Cancer caps

Handmade cards for nursing home or hospital patients

Decorations for dining hall tables or resident's doors in nursing homes

Crocheted or knitted items for the homeless

Handmade bookmarks for nursing home residents
Or Hold sewing classes for children or adults

If you have lots of gardeners and plant lovers you might.....

- Plant a community garden
- Plant a nursing home garden
- Raise pass-a-long plants and herbs for sale
- Adopt a building to plant flower beds around
- Raise a cut-flower garden for patient bouquets

If your members are avid readers you can.....

- Collect magazines and books for libraries and nursing homes
- Read to children or adults
- Teach reading to adults
- Promote literacy programs

If you are blessed with many good cooks you could.....

- Bake cookies for military members at holidays
- Bake homemade treats for nursing homes
- Make meals for shut-ins
- Arrange Bake Sales
- Teach cooking classes to children and adults
- Teach canning classes to children and adults

If your members are outgoing and mobile you may want to.....

- Arrange afternoon teas or dances at nursing homes
- Organize a Red Cross blood drive
- Volunteer at homeless shelters or soup kitchens
- Become mentors for kids
- Organize a neighborhood crime watch
- Hold classes for kids to learn manners
- Visit nursing home residents and hospital patients
- Arrange a mom's morning out program
- Teach teenagers how to care for a house and handle finances

If your members are limited physically they can always...

- Collect items for bingo games at nursing homes
- Collect school supplies for needy children
- Send holiday cards to nursing home residents
- Hold a coat collection for the homeless
- Make gift baskets for children in hospitals

Collect used eyeglasses for charity
Collect food coupons for food banks
Collect coupons for schools
Make care packages for the military overseas
Organize a Christmas gift drive for the needy
Make gift bags for women's shelters
Become pen pals

If some of your members are computer literate they certainly could....

Teach other members about computers and the internet

And finally, if you still can't find a project that seems just right – remember- sometimes the best things you can do are random acts of kindness.

Smiling is infectious; you catch it like the flu.
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.
I passed around a corner and someone saw my grin.
When he smiled, I realized I had passed it on to him.
I thought about that smile and then I realized it's worth.
A single smile, just like mine, could travel around the earth.
So if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.
Let's start an epidemic quick and get the world infected.
Author Unknown

So smile and say something nice to someone today.

Lesson Summary:

With a little effort you can find the perfect project for your club. Talk to members and ask for ideas and suggestions. Find out what they each have to offer to projects. Also, look at state projects to see how you can include your club and community in supporting these projects:

SCFCL – Yards & Neighborhoods – Native Plants – Contact person Doris Taylor

NVON – Water Around the World – contact person Pat Breznay

Suggested Activities:

Have members bring in newspaper and magazine articles about community needs. Talk to organizations and charities about what your club could do for them. Be open-minded about possible projects, you might be surprised what your club members can accomplish.

Suggested Materials:

The abundance of talented FCL members

Lesson prepared by:

Debbie Calcutt, SCFCL Board Officer, Vice President for Programs, Sumter County FCL President

Lesson Review by:

Betty Buff (SCEHC President 1980-1984), SCFCL Board Member

Sources/References:

Zoar FCL Club Members, Sumter, SC