

# Observing Organized Community Service

**Objective:** To provide the students with an example of an organized community service structure; To prepare the students to plan their own community service projects; To help students to gain insight into others' situations and develop compassion and empathy.

**Materials Needed:** One copy of the "Guide to Planning Your Community Project" handout (S68) for each student, One copy of the "Community Project Planning Worksheet" (S69) for each student.



## Process:

1. Before classes start, contact the Habitat for Humanity office nearest you. Explain that you would like to bring your students to their office to learn about the process that Habitat for Humanity uses for selecting benefactors, organizing and training volunteers and how the organization receives funding. Request that someone from the Habitat for Humanity staff prepare a short presentation for the students about the organization. Explain that you would also like to bring your students to work on a house one Saturday. Try to schedule a day for the students to work that does not conflict with the school calendar and that should provide an opportunity for the students to do some intensive manual labor.
2. Approach your administration about a Saturday field trip to the nearest Habitat for Humanity building site. Depending on the requirements of your school, you may need to secure a signed permission slip from the parents of each student.
3. Before you discuss this project with the class, locate as much information about the organization as you can. A useful source for information on the organization is <http://www.habitat.org/how/>.

4. Explain to the students that they will be studying the organizational style of Habitat for Humanity. They will be able to talk with organizers at the local Habitat for Humanity, and they will need to be prepared to ask questions about the organization. Ask them to read the information you have provided on the organization.
5. After the students have read the information, ask them to share what they have learned about the organization.
6. Following a ten minute discussion of the organization, have each student write down three questions they would like to ask the Habitat for Humanity staff.
7. Take the students to the local Habitat for Humanity office. Recommend that they take notes on the presentation they see. Encourage them to ask questions of the staff member(s).
8. After the presentation, take the students to the Habitat for Humanity building site. Have the students work as volunteers for at least four hours so they can experience first-hand what the organization does.
9. When the students return to class, post a copy of the “Guide to Planning Your Community Project.”
10. Work through the guide making sure all of the students understand each step.
11. Give each student a copy of the “Community Project Planning Worksheet.”
12. Divide the class into groups of 3-4 students. Assign each group to complete the “Community Project Planning Worksheet” as if they were the organizers of Habitat for Humanity.
13. After the groups have completed their worksheets, ask for volunteers to share their group’s answers. Encourage the other groups to share any additional responses that their group included on their worksheets.

**Discussion:**

- What did you learn about organizing a community project by observing Habitat for Humanity?
- What skills did you learn that you can use in the other community projects?

- Why is it important for a leader to be able to organize community projects?
- Why is it important for a leader to be compassionate and help others?

**Journal Topic:**

- How did you feel about working with Habitat for Humanity for a day? Do you feel like you made a difference? Why or why not? Did you want to do something else for the future home owners? What other projects do you think would be helpful for that family / person? What could you do to help? Do you think you will volunteer for a similar project again? Why or why not? (A63)

**Adaptations:**

- You may choose to use another organization other than Habitat for Humanity if time or distance keeps this from being a possibility for your class. You should choose an organization that coordinates its own projects and pulls together numerous people to work on a single project. This will help the students get a better idea of how to organize a community service project.

**Possible Test Questions:**

- What skills did you learn that you can use in other community projects?
- Why is it important for a leader to be compassionate and help others?
- What are the ten steps to planning a community service project?
- Why is each of these ten steps important?

**TEKS Incorporated:**

- Social Studies 113.32 (19A), (25B), (26A); 113.35 (23A); 113.36 (1A), (1D), (15A); 113.37 (16A).
- English Language Arts 110.42 (3A), (16F); 110.43 (3A), (16F); 110.44 (3A); 110.45 (3A), (16F).

# Guide for Planning Your Community Project

<b>Planning</b>	
1. Purpose:	State your purpose by defining who, what, when, where, why and how.
2. Motivation/ Communication:	Why is it important? Write it out, sell it! How will public relations be handled? Public involvement?
3. People Power:	Develop your team: what is their role? Identify supporters (financial and volunteers). Who will assist and what will their roles be?
4. Material Needs:	Identify needs (supplies, equipment, facilities, etc.)
5. Financing:	Identify your financial needs (budget, income, resources). Put a dollar figure on everything in Material Needs. Where will the money come from?
6. Problems/ Solutions:	Realize possible barriers of time, money, manpower, training and resources. Determine and develop solutions for each barrier.
7. Calendar:	Establish a timeline for accomplishing your goal. Work backward from your deadline.

<b>Implementation</b>	
8. Implement:	Put your plan into action. Just do it! Advance with confidence. Step by step. Follow up. Keep up.

<b>Evaluation</b>	
9. Evaluate:	Evaluate progress. Adjust, adapt, repeat and revise any steps necessary.
10. Reward:	Reward and recognize those who have shared your vision.

# Community Project Planning Worksheet

<b>Planning</b>	
1. Purpose:	
2. Motivation/ Communication:	
3. People Power:	
4. Material Needs:	
5. Financing:	
6. Problems/ Solutions:	
7. Calendar:	

<b>Implementation</b>	
8. Implement:	Implement your plan of action. Advance with confidence. Just do it! Step by step. Follow up. Keep up.

<b>Evaluation</b>	
9. Evaluate:	
10. Reward:	

