

# How to Start a Community Action Group

## SEE IT: What is the problem?

Find something you think needs to change in your community (i.e. your school, your town, the global community, etc.) and come up with a way to make it better. First, you need to identify a problem and a community you would like to help. Next, you need to figure out what your solution is going to be.

## BELIEVE IT: Why is it important?

Changing the world can be tough work. If you believe in yourself and have a firm grasp on how your passion will pay off for yourself and your community, it'll be so much easier to keep going. It's important to not only pick a cause or an issue that you believe in 100%, but it's also important that the community, especially the people you are trying to help, believe in your project as well. It is important to understand the problem you are trying to solve and be able to communicate the need and goals of your project to others.

## BUILD IT: What is the plan?

Nothing happens with an easy snap of the fingers. You have identified the problem and come up with an idea, now it's time to BUILD your project and come up with action steps. The first step is setting up goals for your project. Your long-term goal may be to clean up your local river, plant ten trees, or establish a school composting program, but if you think about your project in terms of measurable short term goals, you'll have an easier time making change. Remember numbers speak louder than words alone.

## DO IT: Put your plan into action.

Go out there and get moving! Keep your plan in mind, but stay flexible. Unplanned things are bound to happen.

## REFLECT: What happened? And what's next?

Here is where you think about the goals you set up in the BELIEVE IT step. Did you reach your goals? What would you do differently going forward or next time? Did you achieve so much success that you want to repeat the project again or keep it going? Even if you decide to keep growing your project past your original goals, it's important to regularly stop and reflect on your goals, celebrate your accomplishments and set new ones. If you don't reach all your goals, don't worry, that's what "next time" is all about.

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