

AMBASSADOR YOUR VOICE YOUR WORLD JOURNEY AWARD – MEETING 1

Award Purpose: When you’ve earned this award, you’ll have spotted a problem, zoomed in on a solution, and raised your voice to make positive change.

Activity	Materials Needed
What’s Advocacy? • Determine the difference between community service and advocacy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Journey book <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils
A Day in the Life • Brainstorm issues affecting your community and vote on a cause to advocate for.	<input type="checkbox"/> Scrap paper <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Chart paper or large piece of paper <input type="checkbox"/> Tape <input type="checkbox"/> Journey book
Five Whys • Find the root cause of your issue and come up with possible solutions.	<input type="checkbox"/> Journey book <input type="checkbox"/> Writing utensils <input type="checkbox"/> Define the Problem worksheet

Activity #1: What’s Advocacy?

Award Connection: Step 1 – Find Your Cause: Investigate issues you care about and choose one that touches your heart and soul

Materials Needed: Journey book; writing utensils

- Being an advocate means raising your voice to enact change and make the world a better place. You’re never too young to change the world, and even one voice (yours!) can be powerful enough to set off a ripple effect to create lasting change.
- Before you embark on this Journey, make sure you understand the difference between community service and advocacy. Read through pages 29 – 32 of your Journey book to get you started on the right foot.
 - Service** makes the world better for some people “right now.” **Taking Action** is getting to the root cause of an issue to create long-term, sustainable change. **Advocacy** is a specific kind of action that creates change through government or grassroots action to make or revise laws or regulations, or influence politicians and community members to create change about an issue.
- Then, think of a time you provided service. How could you have lifted that service to advocacy?

Activity #2: A Day in the Life



Award Connection: Step 1 – Find Your Cause: Investigate issues you care about and choose one that touches your heart and soul and Step 2 – Tune In: Do some research and zoom in on a specific angle and possible solutions
Materials Needed: Scrap paper; writing utensils; chart paper or large piece of paper; tape; Journey book

1. You and your group might already have an issue that moves you to action—if so, you can skip this activity and get straight to work! If you're still stuck on what cause to advocate for, do this activity on your own or as a group.
2. Imagine the “Day in the Life” as: a child, a teen, an adult, and an older person. Put yourself in that person's shoes and imagine what it's like to wake up, go through the day, and go to bed at night. What problems and challenges do you encounter as that person? What are some things that might make life easier for you that might not be addressed by society right now? Make a wish list for that person (for example, a child might wish for a playground within walking distance of their house, while an older person might wish for more affordable medication).
3. After you've created your lists, reconvene, and use the chart paper to write down the list of issues you've come up with. Then go through the list of questions on page 43 of your Journey book and discuss:
 - Which idea might have an impact on the most people?
 - Which idea requires the most resources? The least?
 - Based on how much time, energy, and resources you have, which idea is the most realistic/achievable?
 - Which idea would generate the most community support?
 - Which idea already has community or organizational support that we can tap into?

Activity #3: Five Whys

Award Connection: Step 2 – Tune In: Do some research and zoom in on a specific angle and possible solutions
Materials Needed: Journey book; writing utensils; Define the Problem sheet (at the end of the activity plan)
Prep Needed:

- Print out copies of “Define the Problem” worksheet.
1. Now that you've found a cause to advocate for, it's time to identify a possible solution. The first step in finding a solution is to determine the root cause of the problem.
 2. Do the “Five Whys” exercise:
 - First, state the problem.
 - Then, ask the first “Why?”. Why is this the case.
 - Then, ask “Why?” at least four more times. Frame the question every time in response to the answer you just gave. (For example, “Reason 1 → Why Reason 1? → Reason 2 → Why Reason 2?” etc.)
 3. When you get to the fourth or fifth “why,” you should have dug deep enough to discover the root cause of your problem. IF you think you aren't quite there, keep digging! When you get to the point where asking “why” fails to produce a useful response, you'll have reached your root cause.
 4. Once you've identified the root cause, break off into small teams and fill out the “Define the Problem” worksheet. This exercise will help you look at your problem from different angles to generate as many different solutions as you can before you agree on the best one.



DEFINE THE PROBLEM

Use this worksheet to clarify your priorities and find solutions.

What is the key issue you're trying to address? Why is it important?

Who is this a problem for?

What social and/or cultural factors shape this problem?

What evidence do you have that this is worth your time and investment?

Reframe the problem. Can you think of this problem in a different way?

Source: Development Impact & You

