

# Bronze Award: From Community Service to Take Action!

Congratulations on making the awesome decision to earn your Bronze Award! We're so excited about all the ways you'll change the world throughout your life and we're super excited about how you'll change your community through this project. We know sometimes the difference between community service projects and Take Action projects is hard to get, this quick guide will support you earning your **first** highest award. So, what's the difference?

Community Service	Take Action	Say What?
Makes the community better for RIGHT NOW.	Makes the community better LONG-TERM.	Think about making a change that will last for years!
Addresses an immediate need.	Addresses either an immediate need or a long-standing need.	<b>Immediate</b> – a problem today and tomorrow, but probably not in a year. <b>Long-standing</b> – a problem that's been around for a while and will still be around for a long time if someone doesn't work at fixing it.
Solves problem FOR the community.	Solves problem WITH the community.	Doing something WITH the community means involving them in your project – asking their opinion and inviting them to help!
Might be measurable, might not be.	ALWAYS measurable!	You can figure out how many people you helped or how big a change you made.

Want an example?

Issue	Community Service	Take Action	Result
Litter on a local beach.	Girl Scout troop spends a day cleaning up the beach.	Troop members host a beach clean-up day and invite their school, other troops and publicize the event to the whole community. They create and distribute thank you gift bags to volunteers that include a list – made by the troop – of reasons keeping the beach clean is important.	Long-term impact comes from the lists in the thank you bags that will change people's habits. You can measure your impact by how many people came to your clean-up day and even do a survey as people leave asking if they'll be using the tips you provided!
Girls notice classmates complaining that they never have dessert at home.	Troop hosts a bake sale.	Troop members visit a food pantry to see what ingredients are readily available to community members who may not have the money to purchase extra ingredients. They research and print easy dessert recipes using those ingredients on cards and distribute them in local schools, libraries and in the food pantry.	Long-term impact is made by making recipe cards available in multiple places and giving people the opportunity to use the recipes for as long as they want. You can measure your impact by finding out how quickly each location runs out of recipe cards.