

GET SUPPLIES

Gathering materials is just as important as raising funds. Service projects often require creative problem-solving when resources are limited. This lesson helps youth identify what they need, maximize what they already have, and develop creative solutions.

CONVERSATION STARTER: What's the most creative thing you've ever done to solve a problem?

RESOURCE CHALLENGE



Divide youth into small teams of 3-5 participants per group.

- Give each team a bucket/box of random materials. Each bucket should contain a different mix of supplies to encourage unique problem-solving approaches.

- Hand out a challenge card to each team with a task (the items they've been given don't need to match the task they were given):
 - Build the tallest tower that stands on its own.
 - Create a picture frame without using glue or tape.
 - Design a small bridge that can hold the weight of a small object.
- Give teams 1 minute to assess their materials, discuss their approach, and 4 minutes to complete the challenge.

FACILITATION TIP

-Encourage teams to think beyond the obvious. Ask, "Can any of these materials be used in a way they weren't designed for?" Challenging them to repurpose items sparks creativity and real-world problem-solving.

-Encourage collaboration and adaptability in using what's available.

- Announce half way through the 4 minutes that teams can trade materials with other groups or collaborate with another team to get the supplies they need.

Bonus Challenge: If teams finish early, allow them to exchange one material with another team and modify their design to incorporate the new resource.

KEY OBJECTIVES

- Identify and prioritize essential materials for a service project.
- Learn how to problem-solve and adapt when resources are limited.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Totes or buckets with random materials (e.g., paper, tape, string, cups, popsicle sticks, etc.)
- Print the page below with Challenge Cards



REFLECTION

In the reflection, each team should explain their final creation:

- Why they chose certain materials.
- What challenges they faced.
- How they worked together as a team.
- How did your team decide which materials to use, and did everyone agree on the plan?
- What challenges did you face with the materials you had, and how did you adapt?
- Looking back, is there a way you could have used your resources more efficiently?



APPLICATION

- How can we use creative problem-solving when gathering supplies for a real service project?
- What are some ways to find or reuse materials instead of always buying new ones?
- How does working with limited resources help us become better planners and problem-solvers?
- Dive Deeper: How does having limited resources push people to be more innovative? Can you think of a time when a challenge led to a better idea than if you had everything you needed?

Key Takeaway: Being resourceful and making the most of what's available is just as important as budgeting for an event. Creative problem-solving turns limitations into opportunities.

CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Did participants recognize how planning, adaptability, and teamwork contribute to successfully gathering resources for service projects?



Build the tallest tower that stands on its own

Create a picture frame without using glue or tape

Design a small bridge that can hold the weight of a small object

Construct a boat that can float