

# THE RIGHT PARTNER

Successful service projects rely on the right people, resources, and community partnerships. Choosing strong partners enhances impact, ensures sustainability, and brings valuable skills and perspectives to a project. This activity helps participants strategically identify partners, build lasting connections, and develop plans for effective collaboration to make their service efforts more successful and meaningful.



## KEY OBJECTIVES

- Identify potential community partners who align with your service project's goals.
- Develop strategies for engaging and maintaining strong partnerships.

## FACILITATION TIP

-Encourage participants to think beyond obvious partnerships. A great partner isn't just someone with resources—it's someone who shares your mission and can help create long-term impact.

**CONVERSATION STARTER:** Think of a time when someone made a project easier for you. What did they contribute that made the difference?

## PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

### Instructions

1. Form small groups of 4–6 participants.
2. Either assign a community issue or let teams choose one they care about.
  - a. Examples may include: Need for an accessible playground, support for teen mental health, or helping families experiencing homelessness.
3. Using the Service Learning Workbook 4, brainstorm organizations, businesses, or individuals who could support the project.
4. Discuss which partners would be most valuable and prioritize who to contact first.
5. Each group presents their plan, and explains why they chose specific partners.

## REFLECTION

- Which organizations or individuals would bring the most value to your project?
- What factors make a partnership truly beneficial for both parties?
- What are some effective ways for reaching out to potential partners and build trust?

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Collaborate Worksheet

## APPLICATION

- Can you think of real-world examples of successful community partnerships?
- How can we turn one-time Collaborations into lasting Partnerships?
- Deeper Dive: How can we ensure partnerships are mutually beneficial? What happens when one side feels like they are giving more than receiving?

## CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Did this activity help participants see how partnerships can enhance service projects? What steps will they take to engage the right community allies?

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** Strong community partnerships can take a project from good to great. The right connections can expand resources, increase impact, and create lasting change.