

How To Use the “Build COMMUNITY” Kit

RESOURCE MATERIALS:

Each kit has materials for up to 30 participants that can be used year-round to build and celebrate **COMMUNITY**. Items include:

- **Poster:** One (24" x 36") poster, featuring a call to action
- **Action Cards:** 30 business card-sized with 10 ideas (three of each card) to build **COMMUNITY**
- **Decals:** 30 (2" x 4") decals to give away when action items are completed
- **Handout:** 30 (4-page) information guides on “What Communities Can Do”
- **Sticky notes:** One pack of 50 for recording ideas

AUDIENCE:

The materials are relevant for kids, teens, and adults.

GOAL:

To inspire everyone to think about intentional ways to support and strengthen their community.

WHY COMMUNITY?

It’s a term that describes a group of people who prioritize coming together for a common goal. When a **COMMUNITY** is unified, there are stronger connections among individuals that help create a healthier environment for all.

CONSIDER HOW YOU PLAN TO USE THE MATERIALS:

- In the classroom
- In an afterschool program
- At a school open house
- With a team or club
- At a local library or city hall
- During a parent night
- At a community event
- During National Bullying Prevention Month
- At a business or workplace

WHEN SHARING THE MATERIALS IN A CLASSROOM SETTING:

Step One: Place the poster on a bulletin board or wall and display all materials.

Step Two: Engage participants to reflect on the question, “What Will You Do to Build **COMMUNITY**?”, and to talk or think through actions to promote connection within your **COMMUNITY**.

- *Option One: Have students generate their ideas on sticky notes and place them around the poster. Ask students to choose and commit to one of the actions described on a sticky note.*
- *Option Two: Place the action cards face up in a pile. Invite students to choose a community-building action they want to accomplish. Another option is to leave the cards face down and have the students challenge themselves by picking an action randomly.*

Step Three: Set a deadline for the chosen action to be completed. After the deadline, hold a class discussion about how students felt while performing the action and what they thought the impact of that action might be. After, provide each participant with a decal.

Step Four: Provide everyone with a handout as a take-away item which kids, teens, and adults can use to continue thinking of ideas that create **COMMUNITY**.

WHEN SHARING THE MATERIALS DURING AN EVENT OR AT A RESOURCE TABLE:

- Display all materials.
- Engage participants in conversation about what they can do to build **COMMUNITY**.
- Encourage everyone to choose (or randomly pick) an action card.
- Ask them to commit to the action, then give them a decal and handout.

OTHER EVENT ACTIVITIES:



- **COMMUNITY Banner.** Create a large banner to hang in a **COMMUNITY** space. Invite everyone to fill each “bubble” letter with their names, signatures, or ideas for creating **COMMUNITY**.
- **Yarn Connect Game.** In a circle, participants build a web of connectedness by tossing a ball of yarn or string across the circle, back and forth until the yarn is unwound. The group then experiments with the connections by loosening their grip or dropping the yarn entirely. After the participants drop the yarn to the floor one by one, the group sits on the floor around the yarn and discusses what happened during the exercise.



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