

## LEADERSHIP FORT WORTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

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### Definition:

The Community Project (CP) portion of Leadership Fort Worth is aimed at offering participants a chance to explore a specific interest within Fort Worth and to act as trustees to accomplish something good in that area. It is also designed to provide a service to the community through partnering with a not-for-profit organization to accomplish a needed goal.

### Purpose:

- To implement a service project related to a community issue
- To foster collaborative relationships with community leaders while focusing on community service
- To provide an introduction to active organizations within the community
- To provide group learning experiences and to sharpen small group leadership skills
- To network within the community
- To gain satisfaction and to have some fun

### Process:

1. Nonprofit organizations identify a project with the following characteristics:
  - a. Appropriate for 7-9 people
  - b. Fits within an October to May timeframe
  - c. Calls on some leadership ability from the group – is not just hands-on volunteering
  - d. Any expenses incurred are the responsibility of the sponsoring organization. The project is **NOT** intended for fund-raising purposes.
2. Write a one-page description of the project and submit it to Leadership Fort Worth before the October class meeting date. Include:
  - a. Description of project
  - b. Specific goals you hope to accomplish
  - c. Suggested tasks
3. Attend the October meeting of Leadership Fort Worth to propose the project to the class and meet with those who volunteer to work on it. Plan to attend the May retreat for a final report.
4. Community Project (CP) groups will discuss the project in more detail with the organization representative and brainstorm possible approaches. This should be done in one or two meetings.
5. CP groups will work with community mentors (LFW graduates) to understand the topic, set goals and objectives for the next months, identify resources and community leaders to consult, and set a timeline with accountabilities for accomplishment. Mentors will help the team focus on group process; the organization representative focuses on group product.
6. The organization must approve the group's plans and assure that the project is viable. The individual or organization should have the authority to then take action related to the group's recommendations and/or results.
7. CP projects often are organized around one or more of the following kinds of formats:
  - Research topic and make recommendations
  - Implement/coordinate action project with agency
  - Create and/or implement surveys, videos, experiments, public awareness projects, resource guides, etc.
  - Any combination of the above