

LEADERSHIP FORT WORTH COMMUNITY PROJECT

Definition:

The Community Project 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 geared to provide opportunities for small group involvement and for participants to experience small group leadership experiences.

Purpose:

To provide group learning experiences and to sharpen small group leadership skills
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 network within the community
To gain satisfaction and to have some fun

Process:

1. Establish groups of approximately 7-9 participants based on one of six potential projects presented by a community not-for-profit organization. Select a contact person for each group.
2. Community Project 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.
3. CP groups will work with community mentors 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.
4. The organization with which the CP group is connected 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.
A representative should commit to being present at the LFW closing retreat to hear and respond to the group's final report.
5. 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

Remember, the goal is NOT a complex, lengthy project. It is vital that the group plans from the beginning a project that is reasonable and can be easily completed by May without undue stress!

6. Common questions include: “Do we need a chairperson? What exactly do you want us to do? How can we get everyone to attend our meetings? Why am I doing this?” All these questions are part of the group process and occur in many community volunteer situations. Part of the experience is facing the questions openly within the CP group and determining answers for that group. If problems persist, the Executive Director and/or the group’s mentor are available to help.
7. CP groups will develop an action plan:
 - Describe the project
 - Indicate approval from the sponsoring organization
 - Identify specific goals and objectives
 - Develop a timeline
 - Assign responsibilities (include a contact person for communication purposes)The action plan is to be submitted by the January LFW class meeting.
8. All members of the CP group need to be involved in the work of the project.
9. In preparation for the Closing Retreat, CP groups will develop a written summary report on the group project:
 - These should be suitable for inclusion in the LFW Annual Report.
 - Submit at the retreat with oral report
 - 1 page
10. At the Closing Retreat, all CP groups will present a report on their projects:
 - 20 minutes long
 - All members of the group must have some role in the presentation.
 - Make it interesting!
 - Invite representatives of the community organization with which the group worked

Notes:

Remember, you are representing Leadership Fort Worth within the community. Your actions and reactions are a reflection of Leadership Fort Worth.

Success is measured by completion of the project and achieving your goals.

The process is as important as the project.

Use the group processes you experienced at the Opening Retreat: nominal group, asset mapping, brainstorming, collaboration, instrumentation, examining the group process, role-playing, discussion, etc.

Any expenses incurred are the responsibility of the sponsoring organization and/or the participants involved. The project is **NOT** intended for fund-raising purposes.

Equipment needs for the final report must be discussed with the Executive Director and/or the Retreat Planning Group.