



Community Service Project Planner for Justice Court Pct. 4

www.wilco.org/jp4



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JUSTICE OF THE PEACE PCT. 4
211 W 6th St., Taylor, TX 76574

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Work through the information provided in this packet to help you determine what kind of project you want to pursue to fulfill the community service requirements handed down by Judge Hackenberg. The project will need to impact your community and take a minimum of 10 hours to complete, not including planning. All projects require court approval.

Check out the court website at www.wilco.org/jp4 for community service ideas.

This guide will walk you through the following steps that will help you make a meaningful impact on an issue that is important to you and your community:

Investigate:

Choose your cause. Learn more about your cause. Identify your personal passions and assets. Map community resources and assets. Choose your action strategy. Put it all together.

Plan:

Determine materials needed for project. Plan steps to complete the project in a timely fashion. Work backwards from your due date to give yourself enough time to finish.

After the project:

Reflect on what you are learning and doing. Evaluate your project outcomes. Sustain your project. Demonstrate and showcase your results. Celebrate your success.

Submitting your work to the court

Complete and send in the project planner within 15 days of receiving your judgment.

Submit photos and short essay answering the reflection questions by the final due date given in your judgment.

Choose Your Cause

What problems have you seen, heard, read about, or experienced that sparked your interest or concerned you?

What issue do you care about most?

The following are examples of common community issues. Select the one that is most important to you. The issue(s) you care about may not be listed. Add any issue(s) you want to help solve.

Education Recruit and train ----- volunteer readers, tutors, and mentors.	Bullying/Violence Reduce bullying and/or violence in school and communities by -----%.	Dropout Prevention Encourage ----- students to stay in school.	Disasters Help ----- people to prepare for a disaster.
Safe Driving Educate ----- people about the dangers of distracted driving.	Water Restore or protect ----- bodies of water.	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Keep ----- pounds of glass, metal, plastic, or paper out of landfills.	Energy Help save energy and reduce your carbon footprint by -----%.
Hunger Provide food for ----- people.	Economic Opportunity Organize a job skills training for ----- people.	First Aid Work with local agencies to train ----- people in CPR/first aid skills.	Gender Equality Speak out for gender rights to empower ----- people.
Access to School Help ----- students around the world attend school or gain access to the internet.	Trees Increase the Earth's tree cover by planting ----- trees.	Places to Play Create or improve ----- playgrounds to provide safe places for children to play.	Green Space Create ----- square feet of new green spaces or community gardens.
Biodiversity Protect ----- acres of habitat for endangered plant and animal species.	Health & Obesity Increase physical activity and / or healthy eating habits of ----- people.	Disease Stop the spread of infectious diseases by immunizing or educating ----- people..	Housing Build or renovate ----- affordable housing units.
Healthier Babies Prevent premature birth, and improve the health of ----- moms and babies.	Destructive Decisions Reduce the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, or risky sexual behavior by -----%.	Medical Research Raise ----- dollars to support research to cure or treat diseases.	Other Cause Add another issue you care about:

Your Cause:

Why is this issue important to you?

Your Vision: What would you like to see change?

Learn More About Your Cause

Now that you've chosen a cause, it's time to learn more about it so that you can bring your vision to life and make a meaningful difference. The more you research, the more effective your project will be.

Community Need: Example: Increasing the amount of paper my school recycles.

What do you **already know** about the need or condition you identified?

In order to take action and make a difference, what do you **need and want to learn** about?

What are **sources of information (ideas below)** you can use to get the information you need?

Observations, a survey, conversation with community leaders.

What **did you learn** about the community need and how to address it?

What is the current status of the community need you identified? This will be your baseline data, the starting point from which you will set project goals and measure the impact of your project.

Identify Your Personal Passions & Assets

You researched and learned about a community need. The next step is to think about what personal passions and assets you have that can help make a difference.

These are examples of some personal passions and interests. Your passion may not be listed - just add it! **Circle the one(s) that you enjoy most.**

Music Playing an instrument, singing, writing songs.	Art Painting, drawing, sculpture, graphic art.	Writing Writing poetry, stories, and plays; journalism.	Movement Dancing, martial arts, cheerleading.
Building Wood working, construction, welding.	Leadership Peace building, student government, politics.	Entrepreneurship Business, marketing, inventing things.	Sports Team sports, physical activities, competitions.
Teaching Mentoring, tutoring, teaching, reading to kids.	Nature Exploring nature, wildlife, gardening.	Animals Caring for animals, training, medicine.	Computers Software development, repair, web design.
Creative Arts Cooking, sewing, fashion, knitting.	Academic Subjects Science, math, history, literature, geography.	Speech Debate or public speaking, broadcasting.	Comedy Making people laugh, jokes, writing sketches.
Spirituality Prayer, meditation, studying sacred texts.	Drama / Theater Acting, directing, theater lighting, or set design.	Photography & Film Taking pictures, making films, animation.	Reading Reading fiction, nonfiction, poetry.
Advocacy Politics and government, commitment to a cause	Journalism Newscasting, writing, radio & TV production.	Outdoor Recreation Fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, bicycling.	Mechanics Electronics or machine repair, auto repair.

Personal Assets (your strengths, things you are good at or enjoy):	
Skills and interests	Knowledge
Interests and experiences	Traits

How will you use your personal passions and assets to address the community need?

Choose Your Action Strategy

You can lead change ASAP through Awareness, Service, Advocacy, or Philanthropy. Choose what kind(s) of action you will use to address the issue you chose.

AWARENESS

Educate. Share information and teach others to positively change people’s behaviors.
 Examples include: encouraging seat belt use and safe driving, recycling, healthy eating; discouraging smoking, bullying, and teaching families how to be prepared for disasters.

SERVICE

Volunteer. Use your creativity, time, and talent to directly meet a need in your community.
 Examples include: tutoring, planting trees, improving school buildings, cleaning beaches and parks, distributing food or serving meals, and teaching senior citizens how to use technology.

ADVOCACY

Advocate. Speak out, join others, and persuade policy makers to change policies and laws.
 Examples include: rallies, marches, protests, meeting with elected officials, speaking at public forums or meetings, voter education, candidate engagement, organizing petitions, and online advocacy.

PHILANTHROPY

Give. Collect and donate financial and in-kind support.

Examples include: raising money for hurricane disaster relief, clean water wells, mosquito nets, or research to treat and cure diseases; food drives and supply drives; and collecting books for children.

Your Action Strategy:

Service Project Details

My cause is...

My personal passion or asset is ...

My service project is...

Preparation and Planning

Determine how long your project will take from start to finish:

Think about how long it will take to gather items and materials, how long will it take to create a finished product if making something and consider how much free time you must devote to the project.

Break your project down into discrete steps

Gathering materials, advertising time, sorting time, building time, etc.

Work backwards from your due date and note milestones needed.

For example, if you are knitting baby blankets, you need to consider how long it will take to get materials and how long it will take to make the blankets. Give yourself a deadline to get materials and another to complete knitting. If you're collecting items for a food pantry, think about how long you want to advertise or ask for items, how long it will take to sort items and how and when you can deliver them.

Document your project activity through photos and videos.

Take photos and videos throughout your project, not just at the end.

Photo and Video Permissions

Remember to be sensitive to those being photographed. Always gain permission from the subjects, and make sure that parents or guardians of any participants under the age of 18 sign a photo release form authorizing you to use the photographs. For a photo permission template, check out www.GYSD.org/promote.

After the Project is Done

Reflect on how you connect with what you are doing and evaluate your project. Answer these reflection questions.

What worked well?

What would you do differently?

What do you want people to say about your project in one month, one year, five years, or ten years?

How has your participation in the project impacted you, and how have you impacted your community?

If you have questions about what needs to be sent into the court or anything else regarding your project, please contact us at jp4@wilco.org or 512-352-4155.