

# CSA CITIZEN SCIENTIST JOURNEY- WEEK 3



GIRL SCOUTS OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS

An illustration on a dark blue background featuring various scientific and creative symbols. In the foreground, there is a green microscope with an orange lightbulb glowing inside its eyepiece. Behind the microscope are several grey gears of different sizes, a white document with orange lines, and a stylized orange and white target. The overall theme is science, innovation, and action.

# Now that you've learned to Think Like a Citizen Scientist...

Since 1912, Girl Scouts have been taking action to make this world a better place!

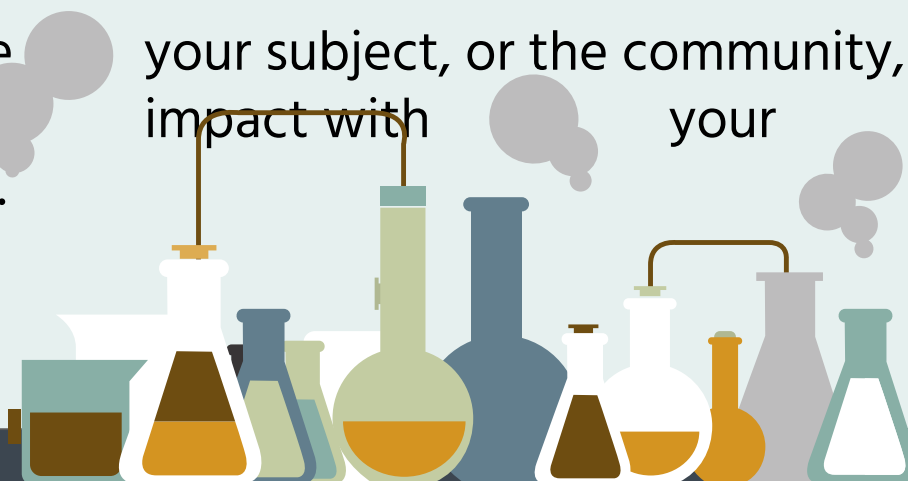
Now it's YOUR turn to use what you've learned and

**TAKE ACTION!**

A small orange dot is located below the text "TAKE ACTION!" and to the left of the bottom right corner of the slide.

When scientists want to start a new project, they look at what others have done and choose something to study. This is the purpose of their research.

Today, you'll choose your subject, or the community, that you want to impact with your Take Action project.



All of us are part of **local**, **national**, and **global** communities that are all made up of smaller communities or groups of people. Start by brainstorming some of the people or groups that are a part of each of these three levels of community.



Write each smaller community group down on a sticky and add it under the chart.

Remember, some groups might exist from the local to global level while some may only be part of the global community.

## For example: Local Community

School, local officials and government, animals or animal shelters, sports organizations, veterans, community center, women and girls, immigrants, etc.



## For example: National Community

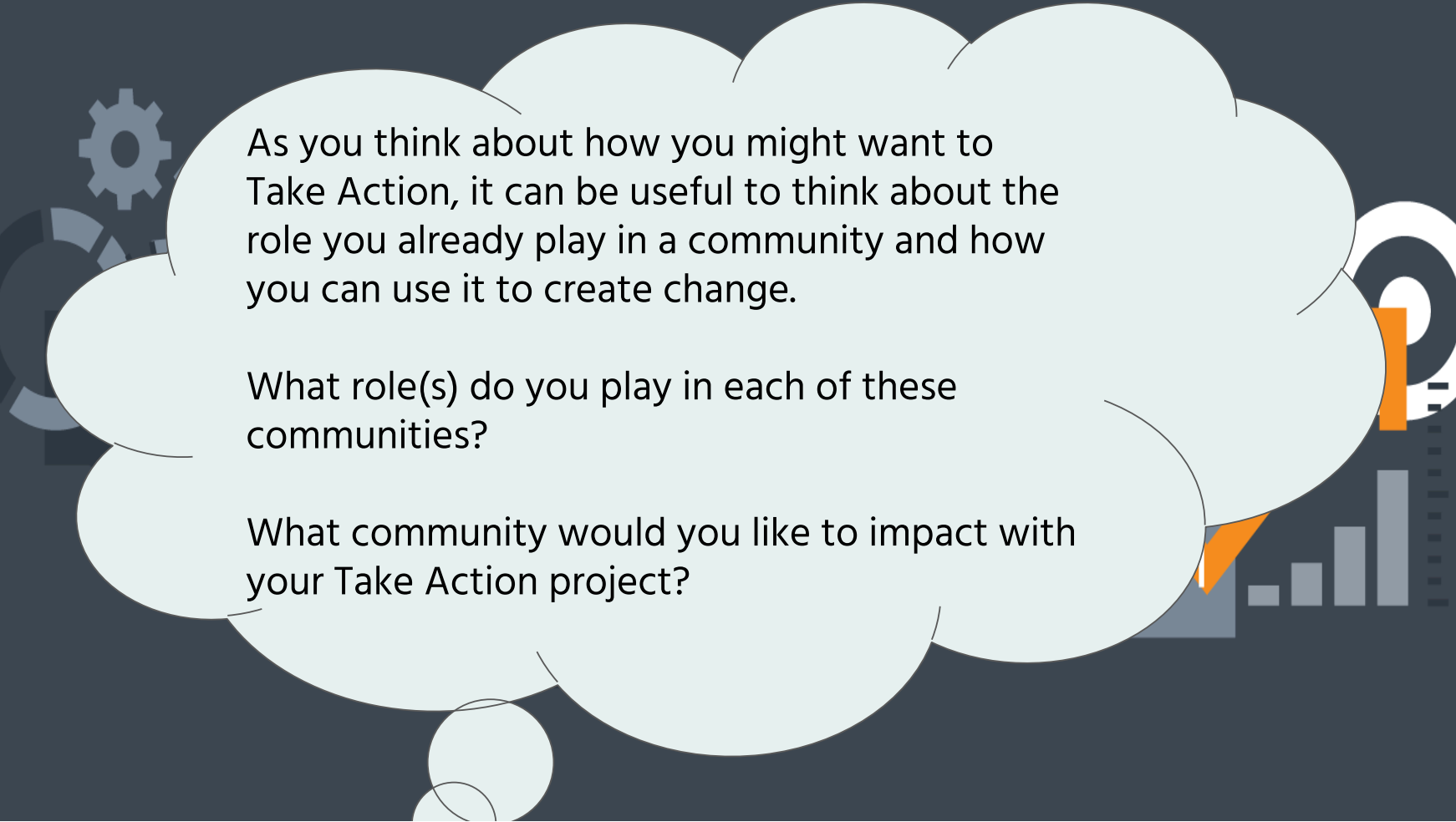
Everything in our local community,  
the 50 states, the federal  
government, national parks,  
the military, etc.



## For example: Global Community

Everything in our local and national community, all other countries, regional governments like the EU, the UN, etc.





As you think about how you might want to Take Action, it can be useful to think about the role you already play in a community and how you can use it to create change.

What role(s) do you play in each of these communities?

What community would you like to impact with your Take Action project?



Who belongs to the community?  
What are some of their problems?

Could we solve (or address)  
the problem using the  
scientific method? What  
research could we  
conduct to learn more about  
the problem?

Which of these issues are you most  
interested in? Why?

How could science help to solve the problem?  
You don't have to include science in your project, but it's  
important to think about what scientists would do and how  
it can inspire any part(s) of the project!

# Not Just a Community Service Project ...

Community Service makes the world better by addressing a problem “right now.” For example, collecting cans of food for a food pantry feeds people “right now.” Gathering toys for a homeless family shelter makes kids happy “right now.” Providing clothing and toiletries to people after a fire or flood helps them “right now.” These acts of kindness are important ways to help people — right now.

These are all good things to do!. But we’re taking it one step further....

The background is a dark blue-grey color. It features several stylized, semi-transparent icons: two interlocking gears in the upper left, a large semi-circle in the upper right, and various geometric shapes like triangles and rectangles in shades of blue, orange, and white scattered across the middle and bottom. The title 'It's Time to Take Action!' is positioned in the top right corner in a white, sans-serif font.

# It's Time to Take Action!

Take Action encourages girls to develop a project that is sustainable. That means that the problem continues to be addressed, even after the project is over. Sustainability simply means coming up with a solution that lasts.

For example, girls might want to do something about trash in a local park. If they go to the park and pick up trash, they've solved the problem for today — but there will be more trash to pick up tomorrow.

Instead, girls could explore why there's so much trash.

Take Action makes the world better by coming up with a solution that is sustainable. That means that the problem continues to be addressed, even after the project is over. Developing a sustainable solution is the key difference between community service and Take Action projects.



## How you can make your Take Action project sustainable:

1. Make it permanent

2. Educate and inspire others to be part of the change

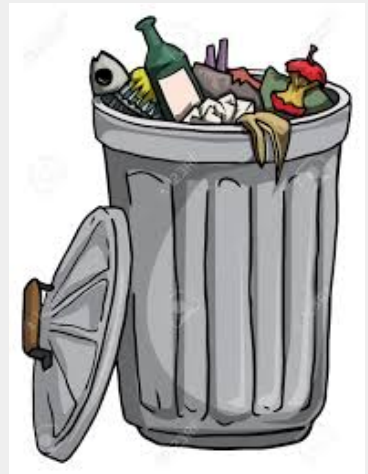
3. Change a rule, regulation, or law

## For example...

Your team has identified a problem:

there's too much trash in the local park.  
If you go to the park  
and pick up trash,  
you will have solved the problem for today...  
but there will be more trash  
to pick up tomorrow.

That's not sustainable.



## So what do you do?

**Talk to people who work at the park in different kinds of jobs, from the park manager to the groundskeeper. What do they already know about why there's so much trash?**

What do they think causes this problem?

What solutions have they already tried?

If those solutions didn't work, what did they learn?

## So what do you do?

**Do a walk-through of the park to understand what visitors experience.**

How far do you have to walk to find a trash can?

How easy is it to find a trash can?

Is it difficult or easy to collect your trash and carry it around the park?



## So what do you do?

**Interview park visitors  
about their experience.**

Why do they think  
there's a trash problem?

What are their ideas about how to fix it?

Record their answers and  
add them to your research.

## So what do you do?

**Create a digital survey.**

Use social media to encourage people to share their complaints and ideas for solutions.

Take your tablet to the park and ask people to take your survey in real time.

Analyze your data and use them to brainstorm solutions.

## So what do you do?

Are there any studies or articles about how parks have tried to fix the problem?

**Research the kind of trash problems that all parks—from community parks to national parks—deal with.**

Which solutions worked and why?

Which ones didn't and why?

# Here's what you might discover...

There aren't enough trash cans in the park.

There are enough trash cans—  
but they're hard to find.

The trash cans are not placed in convenient locations, so people have to walk out of their way to throw away trash.

People don't realize the importance of putting trash in the trash cans.

# Here's how you might address these issues:

- \* Make a presentation to the city council to present your data and advocate for your chosen solution.
- \* Create an anti-littering public awareness campaign.
- \* Design and build interactive garbage cans that make it fun to toss away trash. For inspiration, check this out 

The World's Deepest Trash Bin (Fun Theory)



# Feeling Inspired?

Be sure to join us on our final virtual meeting on **Tuesday, June 2, at 4:30 PM**. We'll talk about how to come up with your own ideas for a take action project, and what your next steps are!

If you missed our first two calls and need to sign up. Please fill out [this form](#).

It's been a joy to take this journey with you!  
Check out GSCI's [website](#) for more about what  
we're doing to keep you connected during this time!

**SPARKLE & SHINE**  
SHARE WITH US!

**#GSCIShinesOn**



*Please take  
a moment  
to complete  
our survey.*

*We would love to  
hear your  
feedback!*