SENIOR SOCIAL INNOVATOR BADGE

Badge Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know how to think like a social innovator.

Activity	Materials Needed
Map Your Reality • Connect with community members to see how your issue affects them, and what solutions them have to offer.	☐ Sticky notes ☐ Pens ☐ "Current Reality/Future" sheet
Success Stories • Look to organizations or groups who've tackled a similar issue for pointers and guidance.	☐ Phone or computer with internet access
Impossible or Possible • Sort the feedback you received from your community and come up with a solution to your issue.	☐ Sticky notes from Activity #1 ☐ Pen ☐ Paper
Give It a Shot • Create a prototype for your community issue and solicit feedback from community members.	☐ Phone or computer with internet access ☐ (Optional) Video recording device ☐ Pen ☐ Paper

Getting Started

- Before you start working on this badge, identify an issue you want to focus on. The issue should be one that sparks your passion, but is also specific and small enough in scope that you can really dig into it and innovate a solution.

Activity #1: Map Your Reality

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Explore the big picture; Step 2 – Make connections; and Step 3 – Build empathy for people affected by your issue
Materials Needed: Sticky notes; pens; "Current Reality/Future" sheet
Prep Needed:
- Print off a copy of the "Current Reality/Future" sheet.

1. A community issue impacts the community, but the effect it has on different individuals may vary wildly. For example, if the issue you're focusing on is healthier school lunch options, the members of your community

may agree that that's a worthy cause to work towards. However, your school administrator also has to think about budgeting and costs—how much more expensive will it be to offer local, seasonable vegetables? And your local farmer wants to sell their produce to your school, but it can't offer their fruits and vegetables at such a discounted rate—they still need to make a living to support their family and their farm.

2. Go out into the community and encourage members to map their current reality: ask people how they view the issue and how it impacts their life. Make sure to cast a wide net to get a diverse and more accurate representation of your community (i.e. ask the small business owner, your group of friends, your older neighbors, your teachers, local organizations, etc.).
3. During these interviews, also ask if they've thought of solutions for this community issue. How would they solve it?
4. Ask them to jot down their viewpoints and solutions on sticky notes for you to use later (or write them down yourself). Collect their sticky notes and add them to the "Current Reality/Future" sheet.

Activity #2: Success Stories

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Make connections
Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access

1. When trying to tackle an issue, you don't always need to start from scratch or reinvent the wheel. Look for inspiration and recommendations from success stories. Find people and organizations in your community who are already tackling this issue, or an aspect of your issue. For example, going back to the issue of healthier lunches, maybe the PTA at the elementary school has already successfully advocated for a better lunch program and implemented it at their school.
2. Reach out to the organization and set up a meeting. What advice do they have for you? What were their personal keys to success? For example, did they have student buy-in, support from the school district, etc.?
3. After the interview, see what advice and keys to success can be replicated or adapted as you solve your community problem.

Activity #3: Impossible or Possible

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Develop a solution from a specific point of view
Materials Needed: Sticky notes (from Activity #1); pen; paper

1. Review the community feedback you collected in Activity #1 and sort them into different categories based on their actionability. For example, you could divide the comments into "not possible, possible, definitely," or other categories of your choice.
2. Chances are that the feedback and solutions you gathered in Activity #1 run the gamut from "reasonable" to "pretty outlandish." Even the most "out-there" suggestions, however, can become the seed to a potential solution. So, before you dismiss an idea, see if you can put a spin on it to make it more possible. For example, a student in your class might have said that their current reality is "School lunch is fine. I like having pizza and fries every day," and their solution is "Magically make junk food good for you." While you can't suddenly turn Skittles into multivitamins, perhaps you can work with the school cafeteria and devise healthy swaps for popular foods (like offering oven fries as an alternative to regular French fries).
3. Remember that a solution to a problem might actually look more like moving the needle in the right direction. For example, you might not get all the kids in your school to advocate for healthy school lunches in the entire school district, but you could push them into making more mindful and deliberate choices about the food they eat.
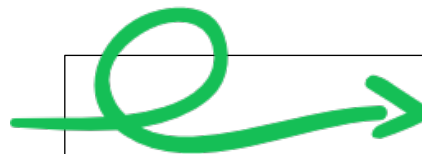
Activity #4: Give It a Shot

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Practice pitching ideas and getting feedback
Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access; (optional) video recording device; pen; paper

1. Prototype your solution. Prototyping simply means trying out an idea to see whether it works, and how you can improve upon it. It's also a great way to "test the waters" before you put in a ton of time and effort only to realize that there were some glitches that you could've addressed in the beginning.
2. Create an ad (print or video) for your solution. What community issue does your solution address? Who's impacted by this issue, and who will be impacted by the solution? After the solution's been put into place, what will be the community's current reality?
3. After you've created your prototype ad, present it to a diverse group of people (if you're able, gather the people you interviewed in Activity #1), and solicit feedback from them:
    - What did people like about your prototype?
    - What didn't they like?
    - Do they have any suggestions for improvement?
    - What excited them about the prototype?
    - What are they hesitant about? What would help alleviate those hesitations?

Current Reality　　　**Future**