



WELCOME TO YOUR COMMUNITY ACTION STARTER KIT:

7 PROMISING PRACTICES FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

WHETHER YOU'RE EAGER TO LEARN ABOUT LOCAL ISSUES, ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS, OR FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO GIVE BACK, EACH PRACTICE IN THIS KIT OFFERS A SIMPLE, POWERFUL WAY TO START. REMEMBER, EVERY BIG CHANGE BEGINS WITH A SMALL ACTION. LET'S DIVE IN AND SEE HOW YOU CAN SHINE!

GET READY TO EMBARK ON A JOURNEY OF EXPLORATION, CONNECTION, AND POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY. THIS CHECKLIST IS DESIGNED TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH 7 PROMISING PRACTICES THAT WILL HELP YOU DISCOVER WHAT MATTERS MOST TO YOU, CONNECT WITH INSPIRING PEOPLE, AND TAKE MEANINGFUL STEPS TOWARD MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

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EXPLORE YOUR COMMUNITY WITH PURPOSE

Take a Walk or Excursion: Engage in a community walk, educational trip, or excursion to observe the neighborhood. Pay attention to the places, people, and unique qualities that stand out.

Reflect: What inspires curiosity? What places seem most lively or in need of improvement?

1

2

CONNECT WITH LOCAL LEADERS AND ROLE MODELS

Meet Community Leaders: Seek out opportunities to meet or learn about local leaders who are making a difference in the community. This could include professionals, activists, business owners, or elected officials.

Learn and Reflect: How do these individuals help address community needs? What impact are they making, and what qualities do they have that inspire you?

PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

3

Get Involved: Look for events, programs, or projects happening in your community that welcome youth participation, such as local clean-up events, town meetings, or charity drives.

Representation: Think about how you can contribute or represent your perspective in these settings.

ENGAGE IN ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES FOR GROWTH



Choose Enriching Leisure Activities: Join local book clubs, youth groups, or creative classes that help you connect with others and develop new skills.

Express Yourself: Use this time to explore artistic expression, whether through writing, art, or performance, as a way to build confidence and share ideas with your community.

4

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STAY INFORMED WITH YOUTH-FRIENDLY NEWS SOURCES

5

Find Youth-Friendly News Outlets: Keep up with current events using platforms that youth regularly access, such as social media, local newspapers, or community bulletin boards in places you frequent.

Engage in Dialogue: Use the information you learn to have conversations with friends, family, or adults about topics that matter to your community.

Volunteer and Mentor: Get involved in volunteer programs, mentorships, or internships where you can develop real-world skills, such as problem-solving, critical thinking, and leadership.

Build Skills: These experiences are excellent for learning how to tackle challenges creatively and make meaningful contributions to the community.

6

SEEK OUT VOLUNTEERING AND MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Reflect on Your Impact: Think about your experiences and what you've learned from each activity. Ask yourself, "How am I contributing to my community, and what are my next steps?"

Advocate for Youth Contributions: Consider ways you and other young people can make a mark on your community, whether through art (like murals), community gardens, or participating in local initiatives at places like parks, libraries, or museums.

7

REFLECT AND CREATE SPACES FOR YOUTH CONTRIBUTIONS

REFLECTION & NEXT STEPS

SECTION 1: REFLECTION PROMPTS

As you explore, connect, and contribute to your community, take a few moments to reflect on what you've learned and what you'd like to do next. Use this worksheet to capture your thoughts, memories, and ideas to make a positive impact! Each question lets you capture insights and set the stage for deeper reflection in **Write to Shine**.

MEMORABLE MOMENTS

Describe one memorable experience you had this week while exploring or participating in your community.

- What did you see, hear, or feel that stood out to you?
- Why was this experience meaningful or interesting?

PEOPLE WHO INSPIRE ME

Who is one person in your community who inspired you during this journey?

- What qualities do they have that you admire?
- How are they making a difference in the community?

REFLECTION & NEXT STEPS

COMMUNITY NEEDS & IDEAS

What's something you noticed that could improve your community?

- Describe a need or issue you saw that you'd like to learn more about.
- Do you have any ideas for addressing this need or helping to solve the issue?

MY PERSONAL GOALS FOR COMMUNITY ACTION

Set a small goal for yourself based on what you've experienced so far.

- What's one action you'd like to take this month to support your community?
- Who can you connect with to help you get started?

FUTURE PROJECTS & DREAMS

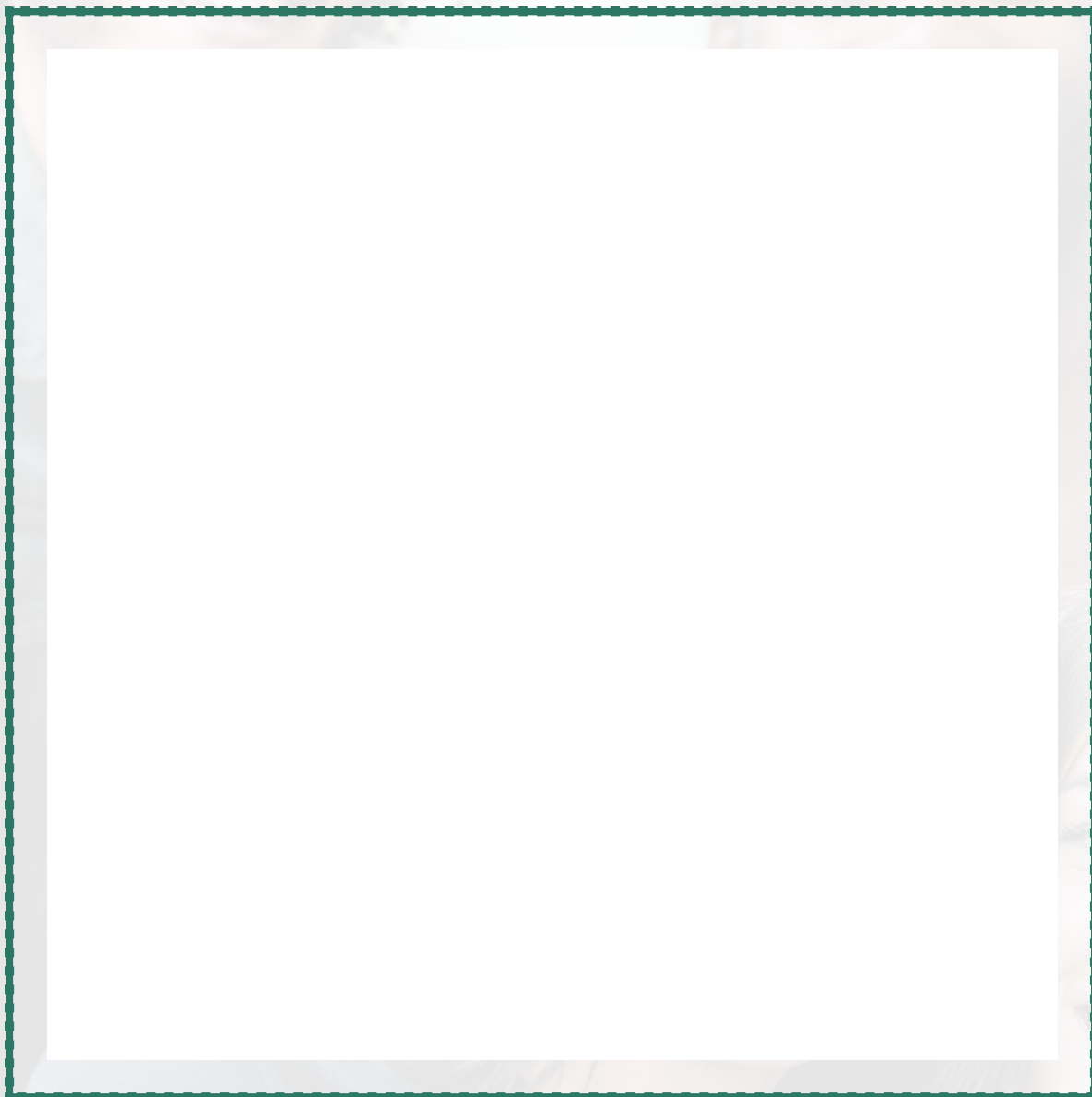
If you could start any project to make a difference in your community, what would it be?

- Describe your dream project (like a mural, event, or youth club).
- How would it help others, and what would you need to make it happen?

REFLECTION & NEXT STEPS

SECTION 2: YOUR KEEPSAKE SPACE

Your Keepsake Moments – Draw or describe a keepsake memory from your journey—a place, person, or idea that was special to you. This could be a sketch of a mural you'd like to paint, a note about a conversation you had, or anything that represents your growth and contribution.



Ready to keep exploring and taking action?

Write to Shine is here to guide you as you grow, set goals, and reflect on your journey to becoming a confident, active leader. You already have what it takes to make a difference. Visit us at Writetoshine.net to learn more about the journal and keep shining!