

SESSION 10

CREATING YOUR CITIZENSHIP ACTION PLAN

Purposes

- To present members' citizenship action plans.
- To share resources relevant to members' plans.
- To reaffirm members' commitment to future citizenship activities.

Session at a Glance

Min	Activities	Materials
45	1 Welcome, Present Field Assignment #9	Binders, one blank wall chart and marker per member, prepared wall chart, masking tape.
45	2 Barnraising Activity	
30	3 Write a Letter to Yourself, The Learning Store	Two, lined pieces of letter-writing paper, one stamped envelope per member, Handout A, prepared wall chart, extra pens.

Preparation for the Session

1. Remind members to bring their binders to the session.
2. Prepare two wall charts:
 - a) Purposes of the session.
 - b) Write the AmeriCorps Pledge, as stated in Activity #3.
3. Copy and punch Handout A.
4. Purchase enough lined letter-writing paper and envelopes for each member to write a one to two-page, self-addressed letter.
5. Assemble one blank wall chart and one marker per member.

Activity #1

Welcome and Present Field Assignment #9

45 minutes

STEPS

1. Welcome members and share the purposes of the session from the wall chart.
2. Call for and respond to any questions about the purposes of the session.

Field Assignment #9 – Citizenship Action Plan

STEPS

1. Distribute one blank wall chart and one marker to each member. Ask the members to summarize their citizenship action plans on their wall charts and post them so that all can see.
2. Ask each member to summarize his/her citizenship plan to the group. As needed, after each presentation, briefly help the group clarify any misunderstandings. Invite a round of applause following each presentation. If your group has more than 30 members, form two groups and allow more time for each presented plan.
3. Thank members for sharing their action plans. Make a transition to the next activity by informing the members that they will strengthen their plans by borrowing a technique from a time when communities helped their members build barns.

Activity #2

Barnraising

45 minutes

STEPS

*You are going to set up a networking activity called “barnraising”. This information resources. Described in Barbara Sher’s book, *Wishcraft How To Get What You Really Want*, barnraising is based on the fact that all of us have extensive networks and that by sharing those networks, we can contribute to our mutual self-knowledge and growth.*

1. Ask the group to relate their understanding of “barnraising.” Clarify, if necessary, that in the past, barnraising occurred when members of a community went to a neighbor’s farm to help build a barn – an activity that the neighbor could not accomplish by working alone.
2. Inform the group that this activity is similar to the original meaning in that their community of AmeriCorps members will be assisting colleagues – not with building a barn – but with pursuing future citizenship activities or goals.
3. Explain the process:
 - Members describe parts of their action plans for which they would like to receive informational help from their colleagues.
 - After listening to a plan, members share information relevant to its further development. The information can be in any form although the essence of networking is sharing relevant human resources.

As an example, suppose member “Nicole” is interested in learning more about inner-city economic development. After she explains her interest to the members, all those who know a resource person, or who know somebody who might know somebody involved in inner-city economic development, would share the name of that person with Nicole. After the session, Nicole would be responsible for getting the contact information for that resource person.

4. After explaining the process and answering members’ questions on the process, ask members to share parts of their action plans. Facilitate discussion in the group for members to offer ideas for resources. Encourage all members to participate in this activity.
5. Close the activity with the following reminder:
 - Members should get their contact information from the other members after the session. Members can also do this activity with friends or family members.

Activity #3

Write A Letter to Yourself and The Learning Store

20 minutes

STEPS

1. Open the activity by reading the AmeriCorps Pledge as a group (*put up wall chart*).

I will get things done for America - to make our people
safer, smarter, and healthier.
I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities.
Faced with apathy, I will take action.
Faced with conflict, I will seek common ground.
Faced with adversity, I will persevere.
I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond.
I am an AmeriCorps member,
And I will get things done.

2. Inform members that the purpose of this activity is to write letters to themselves to help them remember the plans they made today. The letter should be written in such a way as to sustain their motivation to act on their plans.
3. Distribute the writing paper and envelopes to the members. Make sure that everybody has a pen.
4. Ask members to write letters to themselves that summarize their citizenship action plans. Point out that if their plans have changed as a result of listening to their colleagues' plans, that's OK. Ask members to circle, or emphasize in another way, the aspects of their plans that excite them the most.
5. Tell members to insert their letters in the envelopes, seal the envelopes, self-address them, and hand them to you before they leave. Tell them that the letters will be mailed to them in six months, so an appropriate address is important.
6. Distribute the Learning Store, Handout A, page 191, and ask them to turn it in when they give you their letters.

SESSION 10

MATERIALS

Handout A, The Learning Store

- 1 page

Handout A

The Learning Store, Session 10

In order to help us better serve your learning needs, and to help you reinforce your own learning, please take a few minutes and thoughtfully answer the following questions about today's session. Please give this completed form to your facilitator. Thanks very much for your input.

Name:

1. Please list at least three things you learned or relearned today that you think will come in handy.
2. What did you find the most useful in the Field Assignment?
3. Was there anything you found less useful in today's session? If so, what was it?
4. What did you especially like about today's session?
5. What aspect(s) of this session could be changed to make it better in the future?