



Learning Objectives

Learning objectives should outline what young people will learn through the service-learning project. There is no one time to think about developing learning objectives. You can take a look at broader program goals, develop learning objectives, and then re-evaluate them once the group comes up with project ideas. Or the group can identify project ideas, then identify what participants can learn from that activity, and link that with overall program goals. What is important is to make sure that learning objectives match up with the learning opportunities provided by the service-learning project. Remember to include young people in developing learning objectives!

Below are questions that can be helpful in thinking through developing learning objectives.

Identify what young people can and/or want to learn.

It is often helpful to think about learning objectives by completing the sentence, “Young people will . . . “ or “Through this service-learning experience young people will be able to . . .” It can also be helpful to brainstorm topics, information, or skills young people could gain through the program.

Build the objective.

After identifying some initial thoughts it is important to put those thoughts into a learning objective. Some questions to think about to help the group move from the ideas to the learning objective include the following:

- What will be done? In what service activities will young people engage? What skills/experience will be improved?
- What will change as a result of the activity?
- What tools/methods will you use to measure the change?
- How much change will indicate success? Over what period of time? How many beneficiaries will achieve this level of change?
- How many people will directly benefit from this activity?

State the learning objective as a sentence.

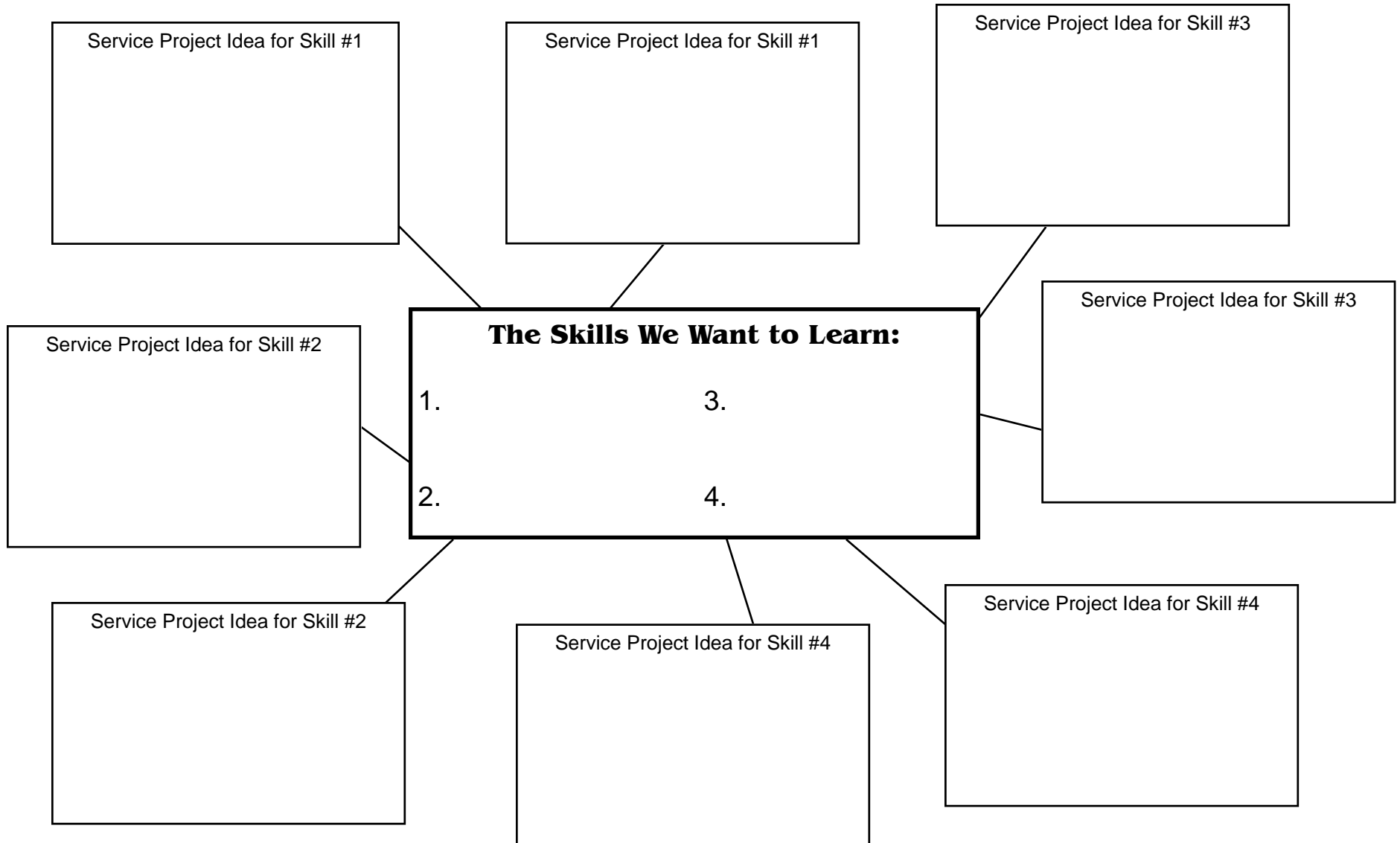
Based on all the information above, restate your learning objective as a sentence. Your learning objective should

- be a declarative statement;
- describe a future state, as opposed to an activity or process; and,
- be realistic.

Adapted from materials by Points of Light Foundation Youth Outreach

What can we do?

Think about what your 4-H group would like to learn—life skills, project skills, etc. Make a list in the center box. Then, brainstorm service project ideas and list them in the other boxes on the project web.



What can we learn?

Think about your 4-H group's planned service-learning project and what you want to learn through the activities. Then, follow the directions in the boxes below.

