

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY



Global Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world. Millions of youth will participate in the 20th Annual Global Youth Service Day on April 24-26, 2009.

Global Youth Service Day is an annual global event that highlights and celebrates the contributions of youth to their communities through volunteer service.

Youth participate in GYSD to address the needs of their local communities through service, to be recognized for their contributions, and to be a part of a global youth service movement.

Over the past 20 years, Global Youth Service Day has brought together more than 40 million people in thousands of communities worldwide.

The goals of Global Youth Service Day are:

- To MOBILIZE youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service.
- To SUPPORT youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement.
- To EDUCATE the public, the media, and policymakers about the year round contributions of young people as community leaders

On Global Youth Service Day, a public awareness and education campaign that highlights the amazing contributions that young people make to their communities 365 days a year, young people will design and lead service-learning projects in areas ranging from literacy and the environment, to healthcare, hunger, and help for the elderly.

State Farm Companies Foundation is the Presenting Sponsor of Global Youth Service Day in the United States. Global

Youth Service Day in the United States is coordinated by Youth Service America, in association with the National Youth Leadership Council.

Youth Service America founded Global Youth Service Day in 2000 by adapting the successful model of National Youth Service Day, launched in 1988 in the United States of America. Youth Service America now organizes Global Youth Service Day around the world with the Global Youth Action Network as its key partner and a consortium of international organizations and national coordinating committees.

During Global Youth Service Day, youth around the world organize community service projects to address local needs. GYSD is held during a weekend every April. GYSD is celebrated in over 100 countries in every region of the world. For more information or to read about events around the world, visit www.GYSD.org.



APRIL SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT IDEAS

Earth Day

April 22, 2009



Earth Day, which began in 1970, is now celebrated by millions of people worldwide. This year is the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, and around the world, hundreds of thousands of nongovernmental organizations, governments, teachers, and faith-based groups, among others, are making plans to declare that they are part of something extraordinary: a worldwide movement to protect our planet, our children, and our future.

This year, Earth Day Network's theme is 'Protecting Our Children's Health and Our Future.' Hundreds of major events will take place around the world, in communities large and small, in classrooms, in parks and on beaches, and in places of worship. Please visit the Earth Day website listed below for ideas and materials on planning your own Earth Day participation.



Arbor Day

April 24, 2009

The celebration of Arbor Day gives you an opportunity to learn about trees and take positive action to make the world a better place.

It all began in Nebraska in 1872. A special day was set aside for planting trees. This tree planting idea caught on and now we celebrate Arbor Day every year.

All over the world, people are planting trees in their yards and in their communities, caring for them, and learning about their value. Here in the United States, we call this tree planting festival Arbor Day. In other lands, you may hear it called Arbor Week, Tree Holiday, or Tree Festival. Whatever people call this special time of year, they are sharing the news that trees are important to us all, wherever we live around the world.



Earth Day and Arbor Day are two great opportunities for students to learn about the history of these two days as well as the impact they have had on the world.

After learning about the history of these important days, students can then do their part to help the earth.



Activities that students can do to celebrate these days:

- Community clean-up
- Start an environmental club at your school
- Cafeteria compost
- Public Service Announcements
- School recycling programs
- Plant a tree at your school
- Plant trees within the community
- Plant a tree at home
- Educate others about the importance of respecting the environment
- Start an outdoor classroom

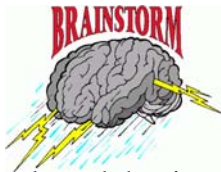


HOW TO PLAN A QUALITY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

Service-learning is relatively easy to initiate in a classroom if you understand the underlying concepts of service learning and are open to the opportunities that present themselves. There are five steps in the initiation of a successful service-learning unit. These steps include brainstorming, focusing, implementing, evaluation and reflecting.

Brainstorm

To start a service-learning unit in your classroom first look at your community. This could be your school, your neighborhood, your city or a larger area such as a state, nation or the world. What needs can you identify that might be met while studying a particular subject you teach or in developing a skill for which you are responsible? Use your textbooks; look at issues that are covered in the local media; talk with the students in your room. At this point, do not restrict or eliminate any suggestion. This is the brainstorming phase.



Focus

Next, examine each idea. Will it solve a real need that is not already being met in some other way? Will both your students and those being served benefit from the process? Is it possible to do considering the limitations and the resources you have available? Talk with your colleagues, agencies and parents. Modify the idea! Shape it! This part we call focusing.



Implement

Once the idea is fully developed, implement it.



Evaluation

Successful units include two more elements: evaluation and reflection. During the evaluation phase students, the teacher and those being served examine the planning process, the procedures used and the results and make suggestions of how to improve the unit if it is to be attempted again.

Reflection

Reflection allows the students to focus on what they have accomplished. Students think about the impact they have had on those being served and how their own attitudes and behavior have changed. Reflection also gives the students an opportunity to explore how they feel about what they have accomplished.



The Best Service-Learning Programs:

- Are bound directly to the academic curriculum.
- Meet a real community need.
- Provide for structured group reflection time.
- Are student-centered.
- Engage students in group decision making and problem solving.
- Find ways to match the skills and talents of students with the needs of the community.
- Provide a wide variety of options for students.
- Provide recognition for services rendered.



PROJECT IGNITION 2009

CAR CRASHES ARE THE NO. 1 KILLER OF TEENS

That's a staggering statistic we want to help change.

Sponsored by State Farm and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC), Project Ignition returns for another exciting year!

What is Project Ignition? It's a grant program that uses service-learning to help address teen driver safety issues.

Here's our challenge to students in grades 9 through 12 and their teachers or advisors:

Work together to develop a campaign to address the issue of teen driver safety in your community.

How you choose to do that is completely up to you! With any service-learning project, the goal is to make an impact in your community in the most creative way possible. The only limit is your imagination.

Each year, schools whose campaigns are judged to be among the top 10 in the nation receive \$5,000 to help cover expenses to come to The National Service-Learning Conference. There, they showcase their great work, one campaign is named the Best of the Best and that team presented with a \$10,000 grant to continue its teen driver safety efforts.

So, are you in? Check out the School Showcase for a glimpse of the creativity, passion, and power students bring to Project Ignition.

Come on; put your school in the driver's seat for Project Ignition 2008-09. Help prove that what young leaders are learning in school can improve the world and even save lives!

For more information or to apply, visit www.sfprojectignition.com



**Don't Forget to check out our website for
upcoming workshops and events.
www.ioniaisd.org**

