

Friday Club Projects

Prepared by Michael Stark Region 3 Service Learning Coach: michaelstark@surewest.net

Lesson

Changing a Community Service Project into a Service-Learning Project

Instructions: From the list below, choose a community-service project and show how you would upgrade the activity into a service-learning project.

Cross reference service ideas with *Region 3 Resource List* for other web sites.

Key Elements of Service Learning: Real Community Need, Integrated Learning (Parallels your curriculum), Collaboration with Local Partners (Students, parents, community based organization...), Student Voice, Civic Responsibility, Reflection, and Evaluation.

Beautification Project

Recycle cans and bottles: Donate money to a worthy cause.

Recycle market bags: Instead of creating the largest ball of twine, make a collection of plastic bags. Most local markets will accept clean plastic bags. Whole Foods will even accept yogurt containers (Imprinted with the number 5 on the bottom.). There are loads of worksheets on the web on the dangers of plastic bags in our environment.

Tree / flower planting: Free trees provided by Sacramento Tree Foundation: www.sactree.com for free trees and downloadable student worksheets. **Plant bulbs** this winter for spring. Bulbs need little watering and little care. Daffodils are easy to grow.

Butterfly Garden: Create a butterfly garden and take part in the National Butterfly Count (End of May). See: www.naba.org See also: www.livemonarch.com for free milkweed seed

Citizenship

Campus / Community Walk: Have your students take a stroll around your campus. Older students may walk through their community. Have students take note pads or a digital camera (throwaway cameras are excellent) on their fieldtrip. Students record problems they see on their journey. Problems could be as simple as tree branches covering street signs, pot holes, trash in vacant lots, cracks in pavement.... Back in the classroom have students discuss which problems needs to be addressed. Students then write their school principal or city council member seeking help in addressing the problem. This is an excellent project for K-12 students.

Addressing Student Concerns: Have students discuss community concerns. Do research into the problem. Then write letters to their representatives in congress, city official, or school administrator.

Create a News Broadcast! CNN has a web site (www.ireport.com) which permits citizens to create their own news cast! If you school has video streaming to each classroom, broadcast your school news to peers.

Create a Newsletter! Microsoft has a template for an easily created newsletter (www.microsoft.com) Ask for newsletter worksheet.

Get-Out-the-Vote: Study the major issues of a local or national election. Have students encourage their parents / neighbors to register to vote and then on Election Day vote. See: mockelection.com

No Name Calling / Stop Bullying: Create posters, plays, or make a presentation to another class. See: www.nonamecallingweek.org for more information. No Name Calling Week held each January. (Request worksheet)

Student Council: Create a student council for your site. Contact Project Citizen for curriculum material empowering students to: Identify the problem, gather the information, examine solutions, propose public policy and finally create an action plan. Contacts: David Richmond @ cawtp35@yahoo.com or www.cawtp.com

Education

ABC Books: Using magazine cut-outs, the children make picture books for preschoolers to learn the alphabet. (Submitted by Mary Ellen Isaacs: meisaacs@mail.utexas.edu) Older children can make up stories turning their literary works into small books by combining classroom efforts into chapter books. Donate books to local library, share with younger children within their school, or provide their literary works to local hospital waiting rooms. Make an alphabet book to give to a young child or donate to parents with a newborn baby through the local hospital. ABC books can also be donated to your local library as free gifts to pre school children. (Request worksheet)

Book Covers: Have students read a book from your school library. Many of the books have lost their dust covers. Have the students design book covers for these books. The new colorful book covers will help students reflect on their reading and the new colorful covers will give new life to books on your library shelf. (Suggested by Mr. Kirt Giovannoni News 10 Teacher of the Month Nov. 2007/ Manteca High School)

Book Drive: Coordinate a book drive to collect new and excellent condition used books for children who do not have access to many books (poverty or disaster areas in the U.S. or for local Head Start or homeless shelters)

Bookmarks: The children made beautiful laminated bookmarks and left them in a basket on the library counter for other students to choose one when they checked out books. Or donate them to your local library! This is a great PR project for your school.

Chess: Older children teach younger children how to play chess or other reasoning games.

Cross Peer Tutor: Help students in other classes. Practice reading a book and read it to a younger child who needs help learning how to read.

Letters to the Editor: Have students discuss problems found within their community or problems which directly affects youth. Have students write a letter to the editor of their local newspaper about a particular concern. (See Project Citizen above)

No Name Calling / or Bullying: See worksheet. www.nonamecallingweek.org

Pen Pal: Establish a pen pal project with senior citizens in a nursing home; children in a local hospital, or children in another country. See Peace Corps: www.peacecorps.gov (Go to "connect with a volunteer")

Publish a book: Publisher will print a FREE hard-covered book. (16 pages half in color) of student produced work. See: www.studenttreasures.com (Ask for worksheet "Making an ABC Book")

Have older students create a math book for younger children www.studenttreasures.com.

Students can also create a START After School Newsletter: Ask for worksheet "Creating a Newsletter".

Senior Home: The children decorate napkins to be used by residents in an assisted care nursing home. Arithmetic lessons can be based on the necessary counting. Art, penmanship, drawing, and language art lessons can also be incorporated in this project.

School Improvement: Have students create a survey on what improvements are needed on your school site. Present list to the principal.

Story Time: Create a story time where your students will read to younger students. Students could dress up in costumes for the presentation. See website www.storyarts.org. The website specializes in folk stories; Lots of ideas on how your class could learn the art of story telling.

Environment

Garden: Create a vegetable garden on campus. Donate food to local food bank.

Gardens supporting habitat: Humming bird friendly garden / Monarch butterfly garden (see: www.livemonarch.com for free milkweed seed.)

National Bird Count: Create a bird habitat at your site. See www.audubon.org

On February 15/18, 2008 will be the national bird count. See www.birdsource.org.

Students observe and classify the birds they see in a 15 minute block of time then report their findings on Audubon's web site. Easy!!!

See also: **Bird Houses:** Easy to make bird houses: <http://birding.about.com/library/bleasyhouse.htm>

Pollution Run Off: Free stenciling kit “No Dumping! Flows to River” www.sacramentostormwater.org Do a survey of the drains on your campus then stencil the warning. Students can also make posters about protecting our streams.

Solar Cooking: Learn the power of the sun. Cook a snack using a solar cooker. Develop a fund raiser supporting the Rotary Club’s efforts to supply solar stoves for impoverished villages in Africa. See: www.solarcooking.com Ask for worksheet “Creating a Solar Stove”. Service-Learning project could include such topics as: Conserving energy, nutrition, or using the power of the sun to solve world hunger.

Trash – Reduce Land Fill & Improve Nutrition: the average school-age kid tosses out an estimated 67 pounds of lunch waste during a school year! Go to: www.wastefreelunches.org for ideas on how to reduce this landfill problem. Have students study the issue, create plans to change eating habits, and have fun too. After informing their peers on how they can reduce waste, have students in leadership give raffle tickets out at lunch. For every environmentally correct lunch, a student will receive a raffle ticket. For an excellent list of nutritious foods see www.onqi.org or 9/2008 “National Geographic Magazine” (Ask for worksheet “Recycle”). See other ideas under “beautification” above.

Collect market plastic bags for recycling: See: www.plasticbagrecycling.org click on “consumers”. Most markets recycle plastic bags. Whole Foods will recycle yogurt cups using plastic #5 (see underside of cup).

Tree Planting: Free trees through Sacramento Tree Foundation: www.sactree.com.

Watershed: Do you have a creek or open space near or next to your school site? If so there are loads of projects your students can do to monitor and protect our environment.

See CREEC: www.creec.org

Fine Arts

Art: Create posters for display around campus to help resolve a local problem. Possible topics: Campus clean up, No Bullying, Respect, or support an on campus initiative.

Art Contests: Sacramento / Yolo County Vector Control District (See “health” below); See *Skin Cancer* (April poster contest); Arbor Day Poster Contest (www.arbordahy.org) March; Junior Duck Stamp Program www.fws.gov/juniorduck (March).

Book Covers: (See “Book Covers” under education)

Dance: Create a dance troop and perform for local senior home or other charitable agencies

Dolls: Create dolls for ill children or for children at children’s shelters. See Using scrap material you can make fun easy dolls. See: “Making Doll Worksheet”.

<http://www.portraitpillows.com/dollsite/page16.asp> . Knitting ideas:

http://www.maggiesrags.com/tips_children.htm

Papier-mâché doll heads created by using a small balloon covered with strips of newsprint. When dry paint. Attached doll head to a sock body stuffed with fabric to create soft body. Use fabric glue to attach arms, legs, and clothing. Small hat can be made by clipping tip of sock, rolling bottom into a brim, and placing over top of doll head. Have students create get well cards or ABC book (See above). Donate dolls to waiting rooms at pediatrics departments.

Drama: Create a drama to help resolve a problem on campus. For example, create a short play to show how bullying can hurt. .

Photography: Have students create a photo essay of their campus. Create a book to be used by your school welcoming new students!

Knit a blanket / baby cap for newborns: Ask for worksheet on how to turn an 8x8 inch knitted patch into lifesaving blankets.

Ecology

Recycle: Make a useful product out of an object heading for the landfill. Ask for worksheet “Recycle”.

Easiest recycle project ever! Ask students to bring in clean plastic market bags. Local markets will accept them for recycling. Have a contest as to which class could recycle the most plastic bags! See: www.plasticbagrecycling.org

Health

Anti –Smoking / Anti-Drinking (MADD) anti-bullying. Have students create a short video and submit the results to You Tube. In some schools videos can be “piped” into all classrooms during morning announcements. See:

www.antismoking.org Free material / Free speaker: www.sacbreathe.org 916.444-590

Crafts Project for children in hospitals or emergency rooms. See “dolls” under Fine Arts. Also needed are receiving blankets. What does a child do stuck in an emergency waiting room with nothing to do? Have your students create coloring books, stories, or games. See Shrine Hospitals: www.shrinershq.org

Food Drive: Organize the holiday food drive for your local food bank. **See: Loaves and Fishes** www.sacramentoloavesandfishes.org Click on “Needs”. Study the causes of hunger. (See Nutrition Education below)

Community Garden: Develop a community garden. Contribute the food to a local food bank. www.edibleschoolyard.org

Locks of Love / blood drive: Help organize a Locks of Love or blood drive day on campus. Students, friends, and parents donate 10 inches of hair to be made into wigs for children with cancer or other degenerative diseases. (See: www.locksoflove.org) Call local Red Cross for help concerning blood drive.

Mosquito Abatement: Survey school and home for possible mosquito breeding areas. Worksheets and information free through Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito Vector Control District; Free presentations also available. Ask about spring art contest. See www.FIGHTtheBITE.net (K-12 lesson plans and free material). 916-685-1022) Placer County: Call 916-435-2140 for free material and speaker (K-8)

Nutrition Education: Students learn about nutrition through a cooking class. Create posters / information sheets to be read during morning bulletins. Help with community gardens. Order **free** book from U.S. National Institute of Child Health and Human Development www.nichd.nih.gov Click on publications. Scroll down to “*Media-Smart Youth*” Order both multi page books: Teachers training book and workbook. For faster service call: 1-800-370-2943 (Fax 1-866-760-5947) Lots of service-learning ideas found in chapter E of workbook.

Personal Health / Hygiene Education: Clean Hands: Learn the proper way to clean hands (and why this is necessary). Students then teach younger children how to wash and clean their hands. Learn the many jobs available in the field of medicine. Students make posters / or information sheets to be read during morning bulletins.

Physical Fitness: Include in your sports program a unit on proper nutrition. Have students create posters helping other students learn the importance of eating right in order to “play right”. Teach and coach a sport to another (younger) class.

Skin Cancer: This cancer is on the rise amongst our youth. Help get the word out to your students.

Free Work Book and Kit: Included are copy ready worksheets and a free UV sensitive Frisbee. www.epa.gov/sunwise Under “Schools” click on “Tools” and register your school as a Sun Wise School. You can then order the kit. Other PDF forms and worksheets are available. *Also:* Skin Cancer Prevention poster contest each April: www.shadefoundation.org **Ideas:** Include sun safety in field events; display the UV index; plant trees, peer education regarding sun safety; distribute free brochures produced by the EPA.

Toxic Chemical Avoidance: CSI Investigation-- Test lunch pails and toys for the dangerous element lead. Students learn about the dangers of lead and then “snoop” around their school looking for the dangerous element. Testing equipment is available at local hardware stores over the internet. This project is best used with older children who must follow safety precautions. Provide plastic gloves when working with chemicals.

Water Safety: Create an ABC book on water safety, present a play on water safety, make posters...

See: www.usa.safekids.org/water for worksheets. Also: see www.epa.gov/sunwise/kids.html on skin cancer.

Weight Conditioning: Help students learn the importance of good nutrition and exercise and how to maintain a healthy weight. From their studies, students can spread the word about the importance of keeping a proper weight: draw posters, make short PSA announcements, or create peer presentations to other classes. **See:**

www.weighwatchers.com or http://www.teach-nology.com/teachers/lesson_plans/health/

International Relations

Pen Pals over the Internet: EPals: www.epals.com/index.tpl Educators and students connect on line.

Baby Blankets: See knitting baby blankets knit project.

Safety

Camping: First Aid: Contact Red Cross or local health provider to teach your students a beginning lesson on First Aid. You might combine this project with a visit from your local REI camping store. They provide a free one hour lesson "Leave No Trace/ Environmental Stewardship" (PEAK / Promoting Environmental Awareness in Kids).

Dog Bites: Request the SPCA to come to your site to discuss dog bite prevention. (See worksheet on assemblies)

Fire Safety: Invite the fire department or police department to do a presentation to your class. From what they have learned, have your students develop posters or public service announcements for their classmates. Make presentations to younger students within your school.

Mosquitoes (Sacramento & Yolo Counties): Mosquito & Vector Control District will stop by your class for a free presentation. www.fightthebite.net (See section on health above) Phone: 916-685-1022 or 1-800-429-1022. (Ask for worksheet)

Walking / Bike riding to school: Discuss safe transit to school. October is International Walk to School Month (www.iwalktoschool.org)

Water Safety: Free age appropriate material maybe found on the web site of the California Dept. of Water Resource. See: <http://www.publicaffairs.water.ca.gov/safety/information/freestuff.cfm>
With the students' new found knowledge, they can make posters or do a presentation to their peers.

Seniors

Gift Baskets / holiday and birthday cards: Consult your local senior center or convalescent home. Ask for the first names and birthdates of their residents. Create birthday cards and letters of well wishes.

Pen Pals: Contact EPals: www.epals.com/index.tpl

Performance: Drama / Art / Dance/ Poetry presentations at local convalescent / senior center (see above). Some homes have transportation and will be able to come to your site.

Senior Biography: Invite a senior to class. Interview your guest and then write a story about their life. In like manner, help students write (or make a video) of the history of their community.
See Veterans History Project: www.loc.gov/vets

Fundraising Ideas For Worthy Causes

Project: Have students research various organizations. Ask your students to decide which philanthropic organization they feel is most worthy for their fund raising.

Kids to the Rescue (Salvation Army) www.kidstotherescue.org

KaBoom!: Improving playgrounds. www.kaboom.org Excellent list of proven fundraising ideas plus loads of ideas.

Make-A-Wish Foundation: www.wish.org

Pennies for Peace: Put the power of one cent to work! www.penniesforpeace.org

UNICEF: www.unicef.org

Inexpensive Classroom Supplies

Resource Area for Teachers (RAFT) www.raftsac.org 916.640.1442

RAFT provides at very low cost: art supplies, posters, stickers, office supplies, books, matte board, and an eclectic assortment of gadgets. Teachers pay a membership fee to gain access to the supplies (One day pass \$15 / full year pass \$30). Location: 3136 Howard Street, McClellan, CA 95652. (Located off of Watt Blvd on the former McClellan Air Force Base). Open Tuesday –Thursday 3Pm-6 pm; Saturday 9:30 am – 4 pm.

Ask for a copy of "Resource Guide Sacramento Region 3"

Ask for a copy of "Free Assemblies"