

“I used to wonder why somebody didn’t do something. Then I realized...I’m somebody”

Service Projects: Beyond the Food Drive

WHY SERVICE?

1 • To Strengthen Leadership Skills

Having a chance to actually plan and implement a project that involves people from the school and community is one of the best ways of practicing leadership skills. It includes effective project planning, PR, managing time lines, and developing relationships.

2 • To Address Real Needs in the Community

Your community needs you. By taking action, you help initiate the steps needed to make your school and community a better place for you and others.

3 • To Feel Good About Helping Others

Students regularly talk about the joy they experience from being helpful to other people.

4 • To Meet New People and Form New Friendships

By extending ourselves to help people in the community, we also open up the opportunity to meet different kinds of people.

5 • To Explore Career Interests

Service offers the best opportunity to test drive a variety of career interests. If you learn what kind of work you enjoy, you will make better educational and career choices later in life.

6 • To Improve Relations Between the School and The Community and Between Adults and Kids

Too often adults see students who are in trouble. Community service efforts allow these same adults to have positive contacts with great young people like you.

7 • To Learn and Grow in Skills and Knowledge

Service Learning is more than just putting in hours. It is the chance to make learning more meaningful as you apply skills and information to community needs.

“SEE A NEED; MEET A NEED”

(From Leadership That Matters produced by AWSP and Project Service Leadership)

FOUR STEPS TO SERVICE LEARNING

Preparation

With guidance from their advisor, students:

- identify a need
- acquire important information
- collaborate with appropriate community people
- develop a plan

Action

Students will take action that:

- provides a meaningful service
- uses important knowledge and skills
- offers new learning experiences
- is safe and organized for success
- will have an impact on their school or community

Reflection

After the service project is finished, students should:

- record the difference that was made
- discuss their thoughts and feelings about their service
- evaluate the plan for future improvements

Demonstration

After the reflection, all projects should be shared with others by:

- reporting to other students, faculty, and/or community members.
- informing the local school or community newspaper to spread the word.

“To Give Without Any Rewards or Notice Is a Special Quality All Its Own”

*“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time for service, they have the heart”
- Elizabeth Andrew*

Things to Keep In Mind With Service Projects

- **Liability**

If it is a school supported service project, the school is responsible for everything that happens. For example, if students wash cars to say thank you to a group of people and someone’s car gets scratched, the school can get sued for it. These incidents are very rare, but should be considered when picking the right service project. Students need to work with adults to make sure all steps are taken to “cover the bases.”

- **Transportation**

Many service projects can be done at school and do not require transportation. Be sure to follow all school rules in terms of transporting students.

- **Money Issues**

Washington legislation requires that students can not raise funds by collecting money into the ASB and then give it to a charity or other nonprofit organization. It is called a gift of public fund and is illegal. It IS okay to collect donations that can be given to the charity directly. For example, it is NOT okay to provide a dance, charge admission, and then give all the money to charity. It IS okay to have a walk-a-thon and get sponsored for the number of miles walked. The difference is that the person giving the money can not receive anything in return. It has to be a pure donation that goes directly to the charity.

*“To do for the world more than the world does for you - that is success”
- Henry Ford*