



SERVE THE NEEDS LEARN FOR KEEPS



A Youth Development Tool Newsletter brought to you by the National Youth Council

March 2005

FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

Innovative and interesting Service-Learning project ideas have always been the elusive Holy Grail of Service-Learning practitioners. **Ideas that not only** capture youths' interest and attention but move beyond serving the usual community needs to discovering more obscure but equally important community needs, such as helping lonely youths find a platform where they can come together to share common interests, or even raising awareness for a struggling animal welfare shelter.

In this issue, we present the A-Z for two project ideas, from the project brief and objectives right down to the how-to for Ready, Render, Reflect and Celebrate - *No Butts About It*, an anti-smoking and anti-second hand smoke campaign suitable for lower secondary students; and *100 Bottles*, a recycling project for upper primary students.

We also give you an insight into the ongoing Youth Leaders and Mentors Programme in *Sneak Peek @YLMP*, and tell you how you can get involved in this hot, hot programme!

Finally, the deadline for *X marks da spot: 1st Nation-wide Service-Learning Projects Competition* has been extended to 31 March 2005 due to overwhelming response. **So hurry, send in your entries now!**

Table of Contents

- 1 Upcoming S-L Workshops
- 2 YLMP Ad
- 3 Sneak Peek @ YLMP
- 4 X marks da spot!
- 5 No Butts About It
- 6 100 Bottles

Upcoming Events

SERVICE-LEARNING WORKSHOPS

There will be two Service-Learning workshops organised by the NYC in April 2005.

Beginner's Guide to Service-Learning

Date : 12 April 2005
 Time : 9am to 1pm
 Venue : The Singapore Girl Guides Association
 9 Bishan Street 1 Singapore 579785
 (near Bishan MRT)
 Cost : \$55 for Youth Organisations
 \$80 for Schools / Government Agencies

Facilitating Reflection in Service-Learning

Date : 13 April 2005
 Time : 9am to 5pm
 Venue : The Singapore Girl Guides Association
 9 Bishan Street 1 Singapore 579785
 (near Bishan MRT)
 Cost : \$85 for Youth Organisations
 \$120 for Schools / Government Agencies

(Registration for the above workshops closes on 4 April 2005)

Is your organisation interested in a S-L training programme (for youth workers) tailored to the needs of your organisation? If you belong to a Youth Organisation or Voluntary Welfare Organisation and have 30 or more participants interested in S-L, call the NYC Service-Learning Section at **Tel: 68399181** to find out how we can assist you.

Easy ways to reach us...

Tel: 6839 9181 Fax: 6734 1794 Website: www.servicelearning.org.sg Email: sl@nyc.gov.sg
Address: National Youth Council, 113 Somerset Road, National Youth Centre, Singapore 238165

If you are looking for S-L resources, visit the S-L resource corner located at the Youth Centre.

Youth Leaders And Mentors Programme

Want to develop empowered youths who know they can, and DO, make a difference in the lives of others?

Introducing the Youth Leaders and Mentors Programme (YLMP), a new programme premised on the Service-Learning methodology that will bring your youths through fun-filled and meaningful activities to become Engaged Youths who are Social Entrepreneurs, Project Managers, Mentors and Facilitators. Imagine. Youths thinking out of the box, sussing out the needs in the community and working to meet those needs, because they know they can make a difference.

If you are a teacher, principal, staff or lecturer, go right ahead and pick from the menu of options under the YLMP!

Community Leadership Programme for Secondary Students

- **3D2N Residential Camp Programme** - Secondary students will take away leadership skills and knowledge on project management, S-L and civic engagement in a fun experiential learning environment.
- **Community Project** - Secondary students will form teams to plan and implement an S-L community project within three months after the camp. This project can be part of the Community Involvement Programme (CIP). The school will receive seed funding for the projects upon submission of the project proposals.
- **Mentors** - There will be post-secondary mentors attached to the teams to guide them through the community projects. Mentors will meet them on a regular basis to facilitate learning from the community project experience.
- **Training Subsidy** - The schools sending their pupils for this programme will receive up to 50% subsidy for the training cost.

Mentoring Programme for Post-Secondary Youth

- **Training & Mentees** - Post-secondary youth will undergo a 1-2 days training workshop in mentoring, facilitation, Service-Learning and project management, and commit themselves to a 3-month period to guide the secondary students through their community projects.
- **Adult facilitators** - The post-secondary youths will be guided through their mentoring experience by adult facilitators.
- **Allowance** - Mentors will be given an allowance for their volunteering efforts.

Community Engagement Programme for Post-Secondary Youths

- **Training and Community Project** - Post-secondary youths will undergo a 1-2 days training workshop in mentoring, facilitation, Service-Learning and project management, and then plan and implement a community project in teams within 3 months after training.
- **Training Subsidy** - The institutes of higher learning (eg. Polytechnics, Universities, JCs, ITEs) sending their youths for this programme will receive up to 50% subsidy for the training cost.
- **Seed funding** - The institutes of higher learning will receive seed funding for their students' community projects upon submission of the project proposals.

Youth Developer Training Subsidy

- **Up to 50% subsidy** - Schools, institutes of higher learning, youth organisations and voluntary welfare organisations can apply for a subsidy for the training of their staff or volunteers in youth development tools, such as the Service-Learning methodology.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Registration for 2005 is open! If you are working with students or tertiary youths & youth adults, enrol your youths in this programme!

If you are an S-L Practitioner, a youth developer or an adult youth leader, and you have a passion to work with young people - facilitating their learning & development, you can volunteer as a YLMP adult facilitator!

Sneak Peek @YLMP

By Priscilla Goh

“ It taught me advanced communication skills and to think out of the box.”

“ I learned that one can change if he puts his mind to it.”



These were but some of the comments from participants of the November and December pilot camps for the Youth Leaders and Mentors Programme (YLMP), a joint initiative between the National Youth Council and Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports to develop youth leaders in community.

As part of the YLMP, secondary school students attended a 3D2N residential camp where they picked up not only leadership skills and teamwork but also learnt project management skills and were exposed to the values of civic engagement.

During the camp, the energetic students were put through a series of activities for them to play and learn at the same time.

With names like “Just Shoot It”, “War Chant”, “Confidence Skip”, “Amazing Maze”, “The PEAK Challenge”, the students discovered the value of working with others and encouraging and motivating themselves and their team.

The students were also tasked to plan for and take charge of a “Meet the Mentors” session where they were to meet their tertiary mentors for the very first time, during the camp. Their excitement was palpable, and when they eventually met their mentors, the effect on them was remarkable. From shy and distracted students, they rose to the challenge and became focused student leaders who took charge of the session and impressed their mentors.

Following the camp, the students are required to implement a community project in groups, guided by their mentors. Here’s the opportunity for them to apply what they’ve learnt during the camp. The teams are currently in the midst of planning for their community service projects and some projects in the pipeline include fund-raising efforts for a school in Thailand, a leadership training programme for primary school students, revamping a school studio, and an anti-smoking campaign.

Stay tuned to this space for the next issue when we’ll bring more updates on the progress of the students’ projects and their overall YLMP experience.



Reflections from camp participants:

“Learnt the ways of being a successful and effective leader.”

“Highlight of the camp was the voluntary welfare organization attachment as it created and initiated all the passion in us and allowed us to have a heart to heart experience with them. It was indeed touching and powerful.”

“Helped me to change my attitude.”

“It helped me overcome my fear.”

“It taught me how to be a good leader, what teamwork is all about, how to manage time and think of creative solutions to solve problems.”

“This camp helped me make new friends, learn leadership qualities and “process vs result” and the importance of planning and teamwork.”

CLOSING DATE EXTENDED!

Have you just completed a Service-Learning project that you think is worthy of recognition?

Are you currently involved in a Service-Learning community project that will be completed by March 2005?

Do you want to win a cash prize for your project?

If so, look no further!

X marks the spot: da Hunt 4 S-L Gems

1st Nation-wide Service-Learning Projects Competition

The competition is searching for Service-Learning projects that meaningfully integrate youth learning with service to the community. Youths who are involved in community projects implemented with the service-learning approach may enter this competition by submitting their completed community project reports by 31 March 2005.

Nine team finalists will be short listed for a presentation and showcase at a national platform. All team finalists and winning project teams stand to win cash prizes.

Service-Learning Projects

- Open to service-learning community projects implemented from 1 January 2004 to 31 March 2005.
- All participants of the project must be age 35 years and below.

Categories

- Category I - All students from primary, secondary and pre-university (Junior colleges and Centralized Institutes)
- Category II - All students from local Universities, Polytechnics, Institute of Technical Education
- Category III - Open category (e.g. Youth Organisations, Voluntary Welfare Organisations, Special Education, Private Schools, groups of youths from different organizations)

Cash Prizes

Prizes for all categories - 1st prize of \$2000 cash
2nd prize of \$1000 cash

For more details & to download the registration form, please surf to <http://www.nyc.gov.sg/sl>

The closing date for the competition is extended to 31 March 2005. We are giving more projects the opportunity to participate in the 1st Nation-Wide S-L projects competition.

Do not hesitate, if your project meets all the criterias; submit your project to us now!



No Butts About It

Project Brief

No Butts About It is a project that aims to decrease youth experimentation with smoking and reduce exposure to second-hand smoke. Students will learn and practice persuasive writing for use in publicity materials for the anti-smoking campaign, and pick up presentation skills through presenting to their fellow schoolmates and primary schools in the neighbourhood. It is a medium-term project that can last between 3 months - 6 months.

Suitable for

Secondary 1 & 2 students

Objectives

1. Students will understand the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke.
2. Meet the need of educating their youth community to counter the increasing rate of youth experimentation with smoking.
3. Students will understand the need for courtesy toward others with regard to second-hand smoke.

How-To

Ready - pre-programme preparation

1. A speaker from the Health Promotion

Board will come to the classroom to discuss the dangers/ consequences of smoking and second-hand smoke.

2. Students will be taught the elements of persuasive writing by their teachers and will be given the opportunity to practice them.

Render - provide service

1. Students will write and produce a video clip/ Powerpoint presentation/ posters and brochures aimed at raising awareness of the dangers associated with smoking and second-hand smoke. The students will be aided by upper secondary student mentors.
2. Students will present to their schoolmates, and later to a primary school in the neighbourhood, the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke, including ways to make healthy and responsible choices.
3. Students will write an Anti-Smoking contract for their schoolmates to sign.

Reflect - ongoing and post-programme reflection cues

1. Students will have an oral discussion on the need to be respectful to oneself and others through not smoking and not contributing to second-hand smoke.
2. Students will write an essay describing the impact of the project on their



community. The essay can be graded as part of their English class assignment.

3. Students will act out scenarios in which they make choices about whether to respect or disrespect the health of their bodies.

Celebration

Students can end off with either an exhibition of their work and research on the dangers of smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke, or if budget permits, have a special picnic of sorts in the canteen for members of their school who have signed and abided by the anti-smoking contract.

Adapted from 'Learn To Serve With Character' - Infusing character education and service-learning into academics in New York State



100 bottles



Project Brief

100 Bottles is a project that explores the concept of recycling through the use of film and literature. Students will collect plastic bottles and be introduced to the 3Rs of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. They will understand the harmful effects of pollution, and learn to document their research and findings to showcase to their school. It is a long-term project that can last for up a year.

Suitable for

Upper primary students

Objectives

1. Students will learn that it is important to develop respect and responsibility for keeping their community clean.
2. Students will understand the harmful effects of pollution and learn the benefits of recycling for our environment.
3. Meet the need of educating their youth community on the urgent need to protect the environment, especially against global warming and other harmful effects.

How-To

Ready - pre-programme preparation

1. Introduce the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle slogan through the use of available film and literature on the topic.
2. Students will research and learn about the life cycle of a plastic bottle on shelf when brought home, consumed, cleaned, recycled, redeemed, and eventually becoming a new product.
3. A speaker from the Singapore Environment Council will come to the classroom to show students how harmful pollution is, and why it is

important to be environmentally-conscious.

4. Students will learn what is necessary for setting up a recycling centre in their school.

Render - provide service

1. Students will create a classroom recycling center. They will collect, sort and clean bottles for redemption.
2. Students will create posters to show the importance of recycling for the earth, to be displayed throughout the school.
3. Students will continue to collect and send them to the recycling centre for the rest of the year. Pledges will be collected from schoolmates to practice at least an 'R' a day.

Reflect - ongoing and post-programme reflection cues

1. Students will discuss why recycling is everyone's responsibility.
2. Students identify the most important thing others need to know about the classroom recycling center and how they can encourage others to be a good citizen and recycle.
3. The class will chronicle their experience of recycling through a big book of photos. Each student will add something to the book to show how their efforts created a better world by becoming good citizens and enhancing their respect for the community they live in.

Celebration

Students present their big book of photos to the school's library, and put up the 'R' pledges on a noticeboard as reminder to the school community.

Adapted from 'Learn To Serve With Character' - Infusing character education and service-learning into academics in New York State