YOU GOTTA SERVE!

EmPOWERing Youth to Create Change
Implementing Service Learning in Afterschool
introductions

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objectives

Participant will:

• Define Service Learning and how it differs from a service project
• Understand the K-12 Service-Learning Standards
• Learn the benefits of engaging youth in service learning
• Learn the 4 step (PARC) approach to Service Learning projects
• Brainstorm and share ways to serve during the covid-19 challenge
Serving While Learning

Learning While Serving

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”
Poll

Does your program engage in service learning projects?
A. No
B. Considering/planning on it
C. Seldom
D. Occasionally
E. Regularly
What is Service Learning?

Definition?
Key elements?
What is Service Learning?

• A teaching and learning strategy that...

• …integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection, and...

• …enriches the learning experience, teaches civic responsibility, and strengthens communities.
What is Service Learning?

• Students *learning* through *tackling* real-life problems in their community.
K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice
from NYLC (National Youth Leadership Council) nylc.org

• Meaningful Service
• Link to Curriculum
• Reflection
• Diversity
• Youth Voice
• Partnerships
• Progress Monitoring
• Duration and Intensity
Meaningful Service
Service-learning actively engages participants in meaningful and personally relevant service activities. For younger students, strive for a project with visible results. (Food or clothing drive, trash pick-up, community garden, etc.)
K-12 Service-Learning Standards from NYLC (National Youth Leadership Council)

Link to Curriculum
Look for ways that the service-learning can be tied to a content area, such as math, science, social studies, social-emotional learning, etc.
Reflection
Service-learning should incorporate multiple reflection activities that are ongoing and that prompt deep thinking and analysis about the project and about oneself and one’s relationship to society.
Diversity
Service-learning should promote understanding of diversity and mutual respect among all participants.
Youth Voice
Projects should provide youth with a strong voice in planning, implementing, and evaluating service learning experiences with guidance from adults.
Partnerships
Service-learning partnerships should be collaborative, mutually beneficial, and address community needs.
Progress Monitoring
Service-learning should engage participants in an ongoing process to assess the quality of implementation and progress toward specified goals, and use results for improvement and sustainability.
Duration and Intensity
Service-learning projects should be of sufficient duration and intensity to address community needs and meet specified outcomes.
Why use service learning in my after school program?

• Great opportunity for enrichment
• Engages and involves the students
• Develops leadership skills
• Develops critical thinking skills (planning, logistics, etc.)
• Develops empathy and compassion (builds character)
• Develops students’ awareness of community and the importance of serving others and being stewards of the world
• Builds bridges to the community
• Raises awareness of your program (good PR!)

WAIT! There’s more!
Why service learning? (continued)

- Fills Time Gap
- Fills Experience Gap
- Fills People Gap
- Fills Academic Achievement Gap

Peterson et. al (2004)
Why service learning? (continued)

• Fills Time Gap
  – Service learning engages students in meaningful activities from 3-6pm – a time when youth are more likely to be engaged in risky or illegal behaviors (crime, drug use, sexual behaviors) Of course, just being in your afterschool program is already filling this gap!!
Why service learning? (continued)

• Fills Experience Gap
  – Service learning engages students in high quality experiences often lacking from school-day due to budget and programming cuts – leading to more engaged students, and helping prevent school failure, poor social skills, and school drop out.
Why service learning? (continued)

• Fills People Gap
  – Service learning exposes children to positive adult role models, which are sometimes lacking in a youth’s life.
Why service learning? (continued)

• Fills Academic Achievement Gap
  – Student engagement and success will bleed into school-day, supporting them socially and academically, and helping to bridge the academic achievement gap.
How can I use service learning in my after school program?

It’s easy!

• Brainstorm with your students to find a project that helps or benefits others. (Needs assessment)

• Follow the simple steps you will learn here!
How do I make the connection between service and learning?

• It just takes a little **planning**!

• **Involve the kids** – from generating ideas, to developing the plan and carrying it out.

• On-going **reflection**.

• **Celebrate**!

* Turning a service project into a service learning project doesn’t have to “take the fun out of it”

The “learning” may not be in an academic area. Consider the social emotional learning that can occur!
How do I find service projects that would make a good learning experience?

• Practically any service project can be a valuable learning opportunity.

• Every school, every neighborhood, every town has opportunities for service.

• There are unlimited resources for finding opportunities, (there’s this new thing called Google…) but…

• *Let the kids come up with the ideas* – they may be original, or they may be what they have heard others doing – that’s ok!
Types of Service Learning

**Direct Service** – involves student action which addresses the immediate needs of the community.

**Indirect Service** – addresses community needs through advocacy, research, awareness, etc.
Categories of Service Learning

- Animal Welfare
- Helping Children
- Community Development/Improvement
- Environmental Protection/Improvement
- School or Neighborhood Enhancement
- Health and Safety
- Poverty and Homelessness
- Appreciation/Recognition
- Others
perfect world

In your breakout room discuss what a perfect world would look like
perfect world

Consider all of the elements of a “perfect world”. What can we do, in any small way, to move toward that? Remember the saying – “Think globally, act locally.”
The PARC Model

- Preparation
- Action
- Reflection
- Celebration
The PARC Model

Preparation

• Teacher works with students to investigate, identify and analyze community issues, focusing on problems and possible solutions. (Needs assessment)

• Teacher and students explore feasibility of service options and select a project.

• Teacher and students finalize plans to begin service learning.
The PARC Model

Action

- Teacher and students take the necessary steps to implement service learning. (Logistics, materials, assignments, etc)

- Teacher facilitates students’ participation using on-going evaluation and makes any changes deemed necessary.
The PARC Model

Reflection

• Teacher provides opportunities for individual and group reflection throughout the project.

• Teacher and students incorporate student reflection in the class evaluation of the project.

• Teacher integrates reflections in planning future projects.
The PARC Model

Celebration and Demonstration of results

• At project’s end, teacher AND students decide how to celebrate the group’s accomplishment.
• Students are involved in planning and execution of the celebration and recognition events.
• Pictures and artifacts of the project are displayed. Invite guests – like those who were helped, school and community officials, media, etc.
• Everyone celebrates!
Tips for a successful service learning project!

• Involve kids in all phases of the project.
• Try to guide kids to projects where they do something with someone instead of for someone.
• Make it meaningful - have kids and staff reflect.
• Celebrate! Don’t let the good feeling end when the project is completed!
• Document! Take pictures to use at the celebration, for recognition, and to create a memory book.
• Invite guests to the celebration – the person or persons who were helped, parents, school officials, city councilmen, mayor, community leaders, media, etc.
Ideas

1) Donate new socks
2) Take to a homeless shelter
3) Share your delivery with us:
   #socktoberoninstagram
   socktober@outlook.com

Socktober

Please help Orphans of The Storm
Donate: April 15th

Dear Soldier,
Thank you for protecting our country and keeping us safe.

Love for Kids

Sock Packs
Program

Veterans

Love Packs for the Homeless

Canned Food Drive

Volunteers

Kraft Foods

Donations

Veterans

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Veterans
More Ideas

- Adopt a Spot (at school)
- Food Drive
- Work at Food Bank
- Recycling
- Notes to Veterans
- Sock Drive (Socktober)
- Personal Pick – Monarch butterfly habitat
Service learning in this time of crisis
generationOn provides programs, tools, and resources to engage kids and teens in service and volunteering.

Theme of the Month: Volunteer At Home

As the youth and family division of Points of Light, we’re always creating ways to help youth and their families stay engaged. The impact of COVID-19 continues to change our daily lives and routines, but the volunteers nonprofits rely on are just as important as ever. These projects can be modified to do at home, and delivered via mail or drop off to adhere to the social distancing guidelines of the CDC.

FIND PROJECT GUIDES
RESOURCES

- www.generationon.org

generationOn provides programs, tools, and resources to engage kids and teens in service and volunteering.
Service learning in this time of crisis

Time for your thoughts.
What are some ideas for service learning during this time of social distancing?
Think of ideas/examples, and also think of how to include the LEARNING part. Can your students still be involved in the brainstorming, planning, logistics part?
How do we include reflection and celebration?
Remember that SEL is social emotional LEARNING!
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- www.generationon.org
- http://www.ysa.org/resources
- www.google.com – type in “kids service learning projects”

*The Kid's Guide to Service Projects*, by Barbara A. Lewis
This new edition of Free Spirit’s best-selling youth service guide includes a refreshed “Ten Steps to Successful Service Projects” plus hundreds of up-to-date ideas for projects—from simple to large-scale.
Youth Service America® supports a global culture of engaged children and youth committed to a lifetime of meaningful service, learning, and leadership. With half the world’s population under age 25, our mission is to help all young people find their voice, take action, and make an impact on vital community issues.
RESOURCES

- http://www.ysa.org/resources

The Kids in Action Guide is a service and learning framework modeled after the Youth Changing the World toolkit. This resource, written by kids for kids, helps elementary-age children imagine and plan a service project.

Features:
- Worksheets/handouts;
- Service project exemplars;
- Templates and supplementary materials;
- Age-appropriate language;
- Infographics and visual tools.

Tailored to elementary-age children, this guide will empower even the youngest children to be leaders for change in their communities.
RESOURCES

Handout and PowerPoint will be available on the MASN website.
moafterschool.org

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- Develops empathy and compassion (builds character)
- Develops students’ awareness of community and the importance of serving others and being stewards of the world
- Builds bridges to the community
- Raises awareness of your program (good PR!)

Tips for a successful service learning project:
(Remember to PARC – Prepare, Act, Reflect, Celebrate)
- Involve kids in all phases of the project.
- Make it meaningful - have kids and staff reflect.
- Celebrate! Don’t let the good feeling end when the project is completed!
- Take pictures to use at the celebration, for recognition, and to create a memory book.
- Invite guests to the celebration – the person or persons who were helped, parents, school principal if it helped the school, counselors, mayor, community leaders, etc.

Service Learning – Definition, Standards, and Resource List
Definition: Service Learning: A teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection, and enriches the learning experience, teaches civic responsibility, and strengthens communities. Can be direct or indirect service.

Standards – a service learning project should address these topics:
- Meaningful Service
- Link to Curriculum
- Reflection
- Diversity
- Youth Voice
- Partnerships
- Progress Monitoring
- Duration and Intensity
(See https://www.nfkc.org/page/standards)

Resources:
- www.generationon.org
- http://www.yes.org/resources
- https://kidworldcitizen.org/35-service-projects-for-kids/
- www.google.com – type in “kids service learning projects”

Book - "The Kid’s Guide to Service Projects", by Barbara A. Lewis
Don't ever forget that you're a citizen of this world, and there are things you can do to lift the human spirit, things that are easy, things that are free, things that you can do every day. Civility, respect, kindness, character.

— AARON SORKIN
My thanks to you!
Questions?
PowerPoint and handout will be available on the MASN website. https://moafterschool.org/

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