

Helping Your High School Students Plan Their Own Green Service-Learning Project



Dear Teacher/Educator,

If you're serving as a teacher mentor for teens, here's everything you need to get your students started. You'll find a planning guide written just for teens, so they can do the satisfying work of service learning. There's also a poster to help them see the amazing experiences service learning can bring.

The big goal of the guide is to help students choose a green service-learning project and complete it—from start to finish. Your only role is to serve as a mentor!

Starting off, students will learn about service-learning projects and what they can expect. From there, they are invited to take a service-learning project quiz. They answer questions and discover what type of project they should take on—direct service, indirect service, advocacy, or research. They also see different examples of projects based on their results.

Brainstorming service-learning project ideas will be based on location, school and community pressing needs, and student interests. After that, students will narrow their focus and nail down the specifics of their project. Everything from who benefits, the timeline for completion, and what it means for a successful project.

Tracking hours during the project helps students value and prove their work. You may need to sign off on the hours, based on whether students need to submit them for a specific organization or resource.

Reflecting throughout the project helps students evaluate their successes, assess learning, and further reflect on whether their role was applicable and interesting.

Best of luck to you and your students.

Sincerely,

Your friends at PepsiCo Recycle Rally and WeAreTeachers



SERVICE-LEARNING STORIES

Meg's Story

Here's how both Meg and Wafa use school-based recycling projects to make sure their students get the opportunity to experience service learning no matter where they live and how much time they can spend.



It's so important to teach students things that they don't normally learn in their academic classes, things that are going to help them achieve. Stewardship, being a citizen, and caring about our world is a big part of that, so community service is important! You want them to not only be great students but to be great citizens as well, and this is a way for them to do that." –Meg Zeng



Meg Zeng
8th Grade Science/
AVID Teacher at
Waccamaw School
Ash, North Carolina

Stewardship and community service are a key part of the 8th grade curriculum at Meg's school. In her rural area where students live very far from one another, it is difficult for them to complete service projects away from school. After implementing the Recycle Rally program, Meg's students are engaging in meaningful community service without leaving the school campus and learning a lot along the way.

Meg's 8th grade class takes pride in the recycling efforts at their school, which has recycling bins in every classroom. As part of their community service, students empty the bins weekly, ensure that materials are being recycled correctly, and transfer recyclables to the larger outside bins that are serviced by their hauler. They also create posters and perform skits to educate the younger classes about how they can participate and make a difference!

As a result of Recycle Rally's Impact Tracker, where students can see the tangible impact they're making by recycling, Meg has seen a positive shift in the attitudes of students who were never taught to recycle at home. She believes that as her students travel to high school and college, they will carry with them the lessons they've learned and continue to be good stewards of the environment.

SERVICE-LEARNING STORIES

Wafa's Story



For the kids that really do latch on to sustainability through community service, this then becomes their passion. I've seen a lot of my students who served in our EcoClub go on to join environmental groups after high school or pursue degrees in environmental sciences or sustainability." –Wafa Safi



Wafa Safi
AP Environmental
Science Teacher at
Hamilton SE High School
Fishers, Indiana

At Wafa's high school, community service hours are a requirement for several student leadership groups and all graduating seniors. The best way to not only check off student volunteer hours but also to engage them in something meaningful has been to engage them in recycling efforts.

Every Wednesday, groups of eight to twelve volunteers pick up their bags and gloves and collect recycling from various bins throughout the school for their service hours. But it doesn't stop there.

Participating in recycling has caught the interest of many students who voluntarily run the school's EcoClub.

The student-led EcoClub has been a driving force behind positive change at the school. Through small public relations efforts such as creating posters, publishing news stories, and making announcements in the cafeteria, students have led successful efforts to reduce contamination in the recycling bins and ensure maximum involvement among the school community.

Hamilton SE High School's participation in Recycle Rally and the EcoClub was started by student leaders, and it remains that way today. As she helps to breed a culture of environmental awareness at her school, Wafa enjoys watching her students become empowered through service.

Do You Have What It Takes To Change the World?



Are you ...

An Initiator?

You've got the personality to promote change. You motivate those around you and challenge them to do their best. When it comes to volunteering, you are quick to choose a cause, task teammates with roles, and make sure everyone follows through. You're great at speaking with adults and encouraging them to participate too! You can:

- Be project manager or team leader
- Present your idea to adults and secure buy-in
- Head up a project launch meeting

An Amplifier?

As the social one in the group, you are able to talk about your volunteering efforts to the community at large. You know how to share information in ways that others will respond to, inspiring them to participate too. You're great at discussing the benefits, sharing the results, and promoting change. You can:

- Post on social media to drive interest
- Create posters to display in the community
- Talk to people about why they should help

A Data Lover?

Your science and math classes excite you. You enjoy tracking and analyzing data, crunching numbers, and crafting detailed reports. You can:

- Design a log sheet and track project data
- Make recommendations or suggest improvements to the project through data analysis
- Draft reports about your project's findings

An Organizer?

You've got all the details covered. You know the when, the how, the who, the where, and the what. You are great at coordinating the volunteering efforts, making sure teammates know their roles and that they show up. You're adept at helping them track hours and stay on task to make sure your team's service goals are achieved. You can:

- Take minutes at every meeting
- Keep track of all the sign-up sheets
- Proofread all emails or marketing that is distributed

A Tech Enthusiast?

There's no doubt that you are great with technology. You love using computers and other electronic equipment, and you're the first to volunteer to troubleshoot classroom tech issues. You can:

- Manage AV equipment such as projectors, microphones, cameras, cables, and speakers
- Create online presentations, forms, or signup sheets
- Lead your team in developing a website promoting an event, project, or program

A Problem Solver?

You always have the bigger picture in mind. In fact, you may be the one who suggested the volunteering efforts in the first place! You are trusted by your teammates and help overcome any challenges that arise. You can:

- Research the most needed environmental sustainability projects in your community
- Bring forth new ideas to enhance your project's positive impact
- Develop contingency plans

A Finisher?

When someone needs you to do something, you've got it covered. You're focused, on-time, and on-task. Nobody needs to tell you twice to do anything, and that's a great skill to master! You can:

- Sign up as a committee member
- Assist the leadership
- Drive everyone towards the finish line!

