

Youth Environmental Leadership & Learning



YELL

**An Environmental
Community Action
(ECO-Action) Program**



Introduction: Environmental Service Learning & Leadership Project

- It provides an opportunity for every Y.E.L.L. student to apply what she/he has learned to address an identified environmental problem in their community.
- You will learn the elements of leadership through discussion, reflection, team building and action.

What's This All About???



- There are two basic components to service learning:
- “*Service*- Young people engage in activities that meet the needs of others and the community...”
- “*Learning*- The experiences of serving others are used as an opportunity for self-reflection and learning” (Search Institute, 2000).



Another Perspective on Service Learning

- Environmental service learning is also described as “*deliberate community service plan and action designed to maintain, protect and or restore the health of the environment.*” (Adapted from Beery, ^{MO1} 1993).

Slide 4

MO1

Main Office, 2/19/2013

Y.E.L.L. ESL & L Projects



- YE.L.L. Environmental Service Learning & Leadership Projects will encourage:
 - the development of positive environmental values,
 - Leadership, and
 - responsibility to care for the environment.

Taking the M.A.S.K. Approach



- Awaken your **MOTIVATION** to take action to protect human health and the environment;
- Develop a positive **ATTITUDE** about your ability to make a positive change in your community in the face of environmental challenges;
- Develop and improve your leadership **SKILLS** that will mobilize other youth to take action; and
- Increase your **KNOWLEDGE** about environmental issues.



Beginning with the End in Mind

- *You project will be evaluated by the following criteria:*
- Clarity of Problem statement – 10 pts
- Demonstration of leadership abilities in the planning and execution of project – 25 pts
- Outcomes of Interventions/Impact in community (Before and after photos) – 25 pts
- Evidence of sustainability of project after the semester – 10 pts
- Reflections/Lessons learned in Write Up – 10 pts
- Overall presentation/video – 20 pts

Getting Started...Identify Your Team



- Exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses with your team members.
- Come up with a Team Name!
- Be Competitive!



Focus Your Project

- What do you want to achieve?
- What is the Environmental problem that you would like to address?
 - Ex: littering at the Carver School of Health Sciences).
 - The selected problem should be placed-based in the NPU-V community.



Consider These Potential Project Categories

- Toxic Chemicals
- Renewable Energy
- Plastic and Recycling
- Air Pollution
- Raise Your Voice
- Zero Waste
- Water Pollution

Analysis of the Problem



- *What are the root causes of the problem?*
- *What has causes this problem?*

Project Statement



- *What is your project?*
- *How will address the problem that you have identified above?*
- *Where will the project take place?*

Objective Statement



- *What is the purpose or reason for your project?*
- *Why do you want to take on this project?*



Become an Expert

- *Conduct background research.*
- *Consider these questions for your project:*
 - *What is the current situation?*
 - *What's already been tried (if anything)?*
 - *Who will be involved in your project?*
 - *Who are the decision makers?*
 - *What obstacles exist?*
 - *Are there examples of successful projects like this?
If so, what made them successful?*

What Do You Already Know?



- Write down everything that you know about your project.

What Do You Need to Know?



- *Write down everything that you don't know regarding your project that would be useful to know.*



Becoming an Expert: Special Notes

- *Capture “before” photos to demonstrate the extent of the problem before completion of your Environmental Service Learning & Leadership Project (ESLLP)*
- *Look at the things you need to know. What steps can you take to reduce this list? When will you take these steps?*



Set Your Project Goals

- *What will indicate that you have successfully implemented your project?*
- *By when will you complete these goals?*
- *Make your project goal **specific** and **measurable** (i.e. reduce your school's energy consumption by 20%).*



Survey Your Landscape

- *It is important to identify what you have and what you need so that you can determine your strengths and weaknesses:*
 - *What people do you have?*
 - *What skills and talents do you have?*
 - *What money and resources do you have access to?*
 - *Are there upcoming events or other opportunities that relate to your project that you can take advantage of?*

Survey Your Landscape



- What do you need that you don't have?:
 - What people do you need?
 - What skills and talents do you need?
 - What money and resources do you need?
 - *Are there upcoming events or other opportunities that relate to your project that you need to take advantage of?*



Surveying Your Landscape Action Items

- What actions will get you what you need?
- By when will you complete each action?
- Who will complete each action?



Create a Timeline with Milestones

- **Work backwards (from project goal achieved) and create milestones (small goals that work towards your project goal).**
- Your first milestones will be to complete the “Becoming an Expert” and “Lay of the Land” action items.
- **Make your milestones specific and measureable (include a completion date and determine who will complete the goal) !!!!**



Message Clearly

- **Create Your “Elevator Pitch”**
 - *In no more than 5 sentences, describe:*
 - *who you are,*
 - *what you are doing, and*
 - *Why you are doing what you are doing.*

Sell yourself and your project!



Writing it All Up: Project Overview

- Project Overview: Using the work you did earlier, briefly describe your project.
- Make sure to address:
 - what your project is,
 - where it will take place,
 - what the purpose is,
 - and why you are taking on this particular project.



Writing it All Up: Lessons Learned

- **Lessons Learned:**
 - What are the important lessons that you learned by completing your Environmental Service Learning and Leadership Project (ESLLP)?
 - What are your “take-aways”?

Project Sustainability Plan



- How will your project continue after this year?
- What steps will you put in place to make sure that the project continues?

