



# COMMUNITY SERVICE CHALLENGE

**The Community Service Challenge is a way to . . . . .**

- Do something good for your community and for yourself.
- Get your voice heard on what matters in your community and what problems should be addressed.
- Learn effective problem solving, critical thinking, and project management skills.
- Strengthen your academic and social skills.
- Make academic content more relevant and practical...you get to use what you're learning!
- Learn about potential careers by completing a project in collaboration with a community organization.
- Meet amazing people that you wouldn't ordinarily get to meet. They'll stretch the way you think about the world.
- Gain a sense of accomplishment.

***You, too, can help change the world.***

**A typical Community Service Project includes five components . . . . .**

### **Investigation**

Advisor and students investigate the community problems that they might potentially address.

### **Planning and Preparation**

Advisor, students, and community members plan the learning and service activities, and address the administrative issues needed for a successful project.

### **Action (Implementing the Service Activity)**

The "heart" of the project: engaging in the meaningful service experience that will help your students develop important knowledge, skills and attitudes, and will benefit the community.

### **Reflection**

Activities that help students understand the service-learning experience and to think about its meaning and connection to them, their society, and what they have learned.

### **Demonstration/Celebration**

The final experience when students, community participants and others publicly share what they have learned, celebrate the results of the service project, and look ahead to the future.



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## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### DISTRICT INFORMATION

Name of School

Name of Advisor:

Address:

E-mail:

Phone number:

Fax number:

### TITLE OF THE PROJECT

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTICIPANTS

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

### PROJECT GOALS

### LEARNING GOALS

### REFLECTION



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## EVALUATION

1. Each athletic department will use the criteria rubric below to select the best community service project from their school. The community service project will be submitted to the Section.
2. Each Section will evaluate all community service projects from their region and select a Section winner using the criteria rubric below.
3. All Sections will send their winner to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association where a committee will select the State winner using the criteria rubric below.
4. The State winner will be recognized for their service and accomplishment.
5. Schools can set their own deadlines for applications. The deadline for submitting to the Section is no later than May 1. The Section winners must be submitted to the NYSPHSAA no later than June 1, with the State Champion being announced prior to school being dismissed.

Rubric Area	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Student Voice	Student voice has not been included in any aspect of preparation or implementation	Students have minimal role in implementation of service project that has been pre-identified by teacher	Students have a significant leadership role in planning, implementation and reflection of service project	Students identify, plan, and implement service project and have many opportunities to learn and practice leadership
Authentic community need identified and meaningful service provided	Service project is irrelevant to needs of local community	Service project meets a community need that has been identified by advisor	Service project has been developed in close consultation and cooperation with a community organization and meets a need	Students and/or advisor have conducted a community needs assessment and have developed and implemented a project based on the assessment that delivers a meaningful service
Connects school and community in meaningful ways	Service project is done without participation of community partners	Service project is completed with existing community partners and strengthens those relationships	Service project creates new relationships with community organizations and leaders	Service project involves community partners in planning and implementation and creates new and lasting bonds between school and community
Skilled adult guidance	Students complete service project without advisor guidance	Advisor provides appropriate information and is present at each stage of the service project	Advisor provide skilled guidance from preparation through reflection stage and help students to draw larger meaning from the service experience	Advisor and other adults facilitate opportunities for inquiry, self discovery from preparation stages and enable students to practice leadership throughout
Reflection	Students have no formal opportunity to reflect on experience	Students participate in a formal reflection discussion at the conclusion of the service project	Students participate in planned, formal reflection activities at the conclusion of the project including discussion, writing, and other forms of reflection	Students have opportunities through the service project to participate in formal and informal reflection activities including opportunities for public presentation



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## Sample Suggestions

- Partner with the American Dairy Association & Dairy Council, Inc. and New York Giant Fuel Up to Play 60 on the Healthier US School Challenge, a voluntary national certification initiative which offers Fuel Up to Play 60 schools a great opportunity to be recognized for helping create healthier school environments. To learn more go to FuelUpToPlay60.com. Please contact Beth Meyer at 315-472-9143 or bmeyer@adadc.com.
- Partnering with the American Cancer Society gives students the opportunity to bring the fight against cancer to school, while receiving support and guidance from a local Society office. With more than 300 chapters nationwide, thousands of students are making an impact at their schools and the surrounding communities. Focusing their efforts on four strategic directions: advocacy, cancer education, Relay For Life, and survivorship. These areas have become a basis for the structure and activities of our chapters.
  - Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities for breast cancer awareness month. Passing out ACS breast cancer information along with breast cancer ribbons or pink frosted cupcakes.
  - Making cold turkey sandwiches at lunch to anyone who quits smoking “cold turkey” for the Great American Smokeout in November.
  - Hosting “Fit Factor” at Relay to educate students on foods that are high in antioxidants.
  - Having a “Kiss Away Cancer” event on Valentine’s Day by passing out ACS Cancer Facts for Men & Women, cancer ribbons, and doing fund-raising.
  - Sending cards to lawmakers on President’s Day to let them know that cancer is an important issue to students. Setting up a booth at school so others can create cards to send to their lawmakers.
  - Sending holiday or Valentine’s Day cards to cancer patients at local hospitals or having a booth at a sporting event so that students can create cards for cancer patients.
  - Creating gifts or care packages for cancer patients in local hospitals. Please contact Hiliary Humble at 607-564-6065 or hiliary.humble@cancer.org.

## General Examples

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| Make birthday cards for the elderly                              | Prepare sack lunches and deliver them to homeless or housebound people |
| Volunteer to help at a Special Olympics event                    | Bring toys to children in the cancer ward of a hospital                |
| Set up a buddy system for kids with special needs at your school | Visit nursing homes/hospitals  |
| Clean-up parks/playgrounds                                       | Visit elementary schools and talk and read to the kids                 |

## References

K-12 Service-Learning Project Planning Toolkit, 2009 Updated Edition  
 Created by RMC Research Corporation for Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse  
 Chicago Public Schools Service-Learning Website, [www.servicelearning.cps.k12.il.us/Curriculum.html](http://www.servicelearning.cps.k12.il.us/Curriculum.html)