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Service-Learning Newsletter

Spring 2007

Spring is here! That means National Volunteer Week, National and Global Youth Service Day and many other opportunities to get students involved in service-learning! This issue is chockfull of new ideas, so take a moment and see what peaks your interest.

Can't find what you're looking for in the newsletter? This is just a taste of what you'll find on our improved [Educator Resources](#) page and brand-spanking-new [Curricula](#) page with links to easy-to-use project ideas and lesson plans.

One last note, we are always looking to hear about your successes with service-learning. Consider submitting an article about your project to be highlighted in the upcoming newsletter. Or share your own curriculum so we can put it in our San Diego Service-Learning Recipe Book. If we select your submission for either, we'll send you a Volunteer San Diego grab bag goodie as a token of our thanks.

SERVICE-LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

Speak. Act. NOW.

Learn and Serve America's funding is in jeopardy, and that could mean major cutbacks for service-learning initiatives across the country. Policymakers must hear a strong chorus of support to justify their efforts to sustain this national program. So what are you waiting for?



CALL CONGRESS and urge them to restore the traditional funding level of \$43 million for Learn and Serve America.

Educate them by sharing your stories about the power of service-learning and its positive impact on students and communities. Check [here](#) for talking points.

SEND A PERSONAL MESSAGE to your U.S. Representative and Senators with our [online advocacy tool](#). It's fast and easy, but don't stop there. Ask your friends, family, colleagues, parents, teachers, and youth to send a message too.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHT

It's Never Too Late to Celebrate Chavez Day!



Chavez Day may have passed but tens of thousands of farm workers are still in crisis. On January 12, 2007, California was hit by a week long freeze that destroyed the Central Valley's citrus crops, causing an estimated \$1 billion in losses, and prompting Governor Schwarzenegger to declare a state of emergency.

The lives of an estimated 28,000 farm workers and their children have been ravaged by this natural disaster. With no jobs and no income, these families have begun to run out of food, can't afford to pay for heat or medical care, and are in danger of being evicted from their homes. Farm workers are in need of monetary, food and toiletry donations.

Download the [Chavez Day 2007 Tool-Kit](#) and engage your students in service-learning projects to support the citrus workers.

YOUTH ART CONTEST

Design a T-Shirt for the Largest Volunteer Event in San Diego!

September 22-30, during Volunteer San Diego's annual Hands On San Diego event, volunteers will be completing hundreds of service projects throughout the county. We are looking for students, grades K-12, to design the t-shirt that will be worn by thousands of volunteers. Pass the word on with this [flyer](#) and download the [T-shirt Art Contest Packet](#) today!



Questions? Contact [Jocelyn Gonzales](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP CAMP



Tell Your Students About CampLEAP

Camp LEAP will engage students ages 13-18 in a variety of environmental service projects and issue-based education, while providing in-depth leadership training. This unique summer experience will culminate in a

student-designed and led environmental service-learning project. Click [here](#) to learn more and find out how to apply.

Are you an Earth Science teacher using service-learning in your classroom? Consider helping us design the Camp LEAP program or being part of our "What's Next?" panel at the culmination of camp. [Contact us](#) about how to get involved.

SEMINARS and TRAININGS

Upcoming Trainings at Volunteer San Diego

[Engaging Student Volunteers to Help Meet Your Mission](#)

MAY 3, 9am - Noon

A fantastic hands-on training **for agencies and non-profits**

During this training you will:

- 1) Learn how to engage schools and recruit student volunteers to help meet your mission
- 2) Explore the definitions of service-learning versus community service
- 3) Practice an easy planning tool to integrate meaningful learning into your agency's volunteer opportunities
- 4) Work in focus groups to brainstorm project ideas that ensure volunteer learning while meeting your agency's goals

Click [here](#) to register.

[Service-Learning 101](#)

MAY 24, 4pm -6:30pm

A great introduction/how-to **for educators**, this training will:

- 1) Explore the elements of successful community service-learning curricula and projects
- 2) Demonstrate how to integrate service to the community with academic learning/standards for students ages 5-25
- 3) Practice easy-to-use curriculum and discuss sample

projects ideal for in school and afterschool settings
4) Learn about our youth service club model, [SAVY clubs](#).
5) Orientate you to Volunteer San Diego's hundreds of volunteer opportunities for you and your students

Click [here](#) to register.

Other Great Trainings

[Sowing Seeds Humane Education Workshop](#)

April 28-29, Carlsbad, CA

Humane education examines the challenges facing our planet, from human oppression and animal exploitation to materialism and ecological degradation. This 2-day workshop will provide you with the tools you need to teach others how to live with compassion and respect for everyone and make informed choices that help create a humane world. Register [here](#).

FEATURED RESOURCES

Inclusive Service-Learning Manual:

The result of a long-term collaboration between the Magellan Foundation and the New York State Education Department Learn and Serve America Program, this manual provides instruction and technical assistance to school districts interested in students with and without disabilities working side-by-side on service-learning projects. [Download](#) the manual or contact [Fran Hollon](#) at the New York State Education Department for a CD-ROM.

GRANTS AND FUNDING (Arranged by deadline)

If you or one of your students apply for and receive any of the following awards, let us know so we can highlight your successes in the next newsletter. Also, remember to check our [website](#) for new funding opportunities listed every week.

[Be Kind to Animals Kid Contest](#) invites nominations of kids 6-13 who've demonstrated extraordinary kindness to animals.

Deadline: April 16, 2007

Award: Prize packages

ING's [Planet Orange Financial Literacy Awards](#) support K-8 teachers implementing financial literacy projects during the 07-08 school year. What a great opportunity to teach kids money management as part of a greater service project!

Deadline: April 20, 2007

Award: Between \$200 and \$1,000

[Project Learning Tree GreenWorks!](#) offers grants to implement

community action and service-learning projects that address an environmental issue and involve students (pre-K -12).

Deadline: April 30, 2007

Award: Up to \$5,000

The [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](#) seeks nominations to honor young people ages 8-18 who have shown leadership and courage in public service to people and our planet.

Deadline: April 30, 2007

Award: \$2,000 for higher education or service project

Earth Island Institute's Annual [Brower Youth Award](#) recognizes six young people ages 13-22 for their outstanding achievements in environmental and social justice advocacy.

Deadline: May 15, 2007

Award: \$3,000, a California wilderness camping trip, plus ongoing support to further their good work.

The [YouthActionNet Awards](#) help fund the social change projects of young social entrepreneurs ages 18-29 around the world.

Deadline: May 15, 2007

Award: \$500 plus participation in a week-long capacity building workshop in Washington, D.C.

The NEA Foundation's [Learning & Leadership Grants](#) offer teachers, education support professionals, and higher ed faculty the opportunity to engage in high-quality professional development. Apply and use the award to contract Volunteer San Diego to lead a service-learning workshop or provide curriculum consultation tailored to your needs.

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Award: \$2,000 for individuals and \$5,000 for groups

[Student Achievement Grants](#) aim to improve the academic achievement of students by engaging them in critical thinking and problem solving that deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter. The work should improve students' habits of inquiry, self-directed learning, and critical reflection. Sound like service-learning to anyone?!

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Award: \$5,000

[Garden Crusader Awards](#) honor individuals using gardening to make a difference in their communities. Nominations are invited in the categories of education, feeding the hungry, restoration, and urban renewal. Perfect for teachers leading their students in a school garden service-learning program.

Deadline: June 1, 2007

Award: \$200 to \$5,000 in cash and gardening supplies

[MTV Tr3s Voces](#) will award grants to groups of young Latinos ages 13 to 20 with new and creative ideas for after-school programs, clubs, or other ventures that encourage and help

Latino youth graduate high school and prepare for college.
Deadline: June 29, 2007 - grants offered weekly
Award: \$1,000 plus \$5,000 to each of the top five teams

[Captain Planet Foundation](#) supports environmental projects involving young people. Eligible applicant groups or sponsors include most schools and nonprofit organizations.

Deadline: June 30, Sept. 30, and Dec. 31
Award: Between \$250 and \$2,500

SERVICE-LEARNING CALENDAR

Throughout April for [Days of Interfaith Service](#), thousands of religiously diverse young people come together in hometowns and college campuses around the world to serve their communities and engage in dialogue. Interfaith Youth Core's [Quickstart Toolkit](#) will tell you all you need to know to get your own Day of Interfaith Youth Service project started!

April 21: Celebrate National & Global Youth Service Day! Take part in our [5K Walk](#) to raise money for underserved youth in San Diego. Join Volunteer San Diego's SAVY Leaders in Mission Trails Park for a wilderness walk full of festivities for all ages! Check [here](#) for more information.

April 16 - 22: In addition Volunteer San Diego is coordinating N&GYSD projects throughout the week, so keep your eye on the [April Project Calendar](#) to sign up as a volunteer! Want to plan your own National & Global Youth Service Day project? We can help. Contact [Katherine Macdougall](#) for more information.

April 28-29: [Sowing Seeds Humane Education Workshop](#)

May 3: [Engaging Student Volunteers to Meet Your Mission](#)
(A training for agencies and non-profits)

May 24: [Service-Learning 101](#)
(An intro/how-to for in school and afterschool educators)

July 18-27: [Camp LEAP](#)
(Leadership and environmental service camp for teens)

Support VSD

Supporting VSD just got easier!

Now you can raise money for Volunteer San Diego just by searching the Internet at [goodsearch.com](#).

Make a Gift

Support the organization that supports the community. [Donate today!](#)

Run (or walk) to raise funds for

VSD!

Recruiting runners & walkers for the La Jolla Half Marathon / 5K Run / Walk on April 22. For more information, contact Eric at 858-414-1020 sandiegowealth@yahoo.com

For more information or to submit an article for this newsletter, contact Jessica End, AmeriCorps*VISTA Service-Learning Coordinator

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