



Change yourself. Change your world. Volunteer.

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## Educator Resource Newsletter

August 2008

### Share Your Service-Learning Stories!

Do you have a service-learning story to share in our newsletter - a new project, partnership, grant or award? We would love to hear about it. Please contact [Kim Lesnau](#).

[Check Out Our Webpage!](#)

If you cannot find what you're looking for, please try our Educator page and our growing Curricula Hub with links to easy-to-use project ideas and lesson plans.

### National Learn & Serve Challenge October 6 - 12, 2008!

The **National Learn & Serve Challenge** is a perfect opportunity to celebrate service-learning. **October 6-12** marks the kickoff week to raise awareness about service-learning successes across the country with the spirit of continuing the effort throughout the year.

Through service-learning, young people can "BE A SOLUTION" to real world challenges that face our community, nation and the world.

Help us spread the word about the positive impact service-learning has on young people in our community. Go to the [National Learn & Serve website](#) to learn more about what you can do during the National Learn & Serve Challenge!

### MyVote California Student Mock Election October 30, 2008

Mark your calendars and prepare to hit the presidential campaign trail with your students when the **MyVote California Student Mock**

**Election** season kicks off in the fall!

On **Tuesday, October 30**, Secretary of State Debra Bowen and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell will hold the MyVote California Student Mock Election for high school and middle school students. It takes place one week before the general election in November.

Working with the **California Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools**, in coordination with the **National Student/Parent Mock Election**, the **MyVote California Student Mock Election** helps young people discover the importance of elections and the power of their vote in our democracy. It will build on the excitement of the historic 2008 presidential election by giving students firsthand experience with the electoral process as they make their voices heard on the candidates and issues of importance to them and their families.

**In the fall, schools can register for the MyVote California Student Mock Election at <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/studentmockelection.htm>.** There, you will also find a collection of mock election tools, including a broad array of standards-based lesson plans and activities, mock election ballots, posters and other resources for making your school's mock election a rewarding experience.

(Information provided by CalServe and the Los Angeles County Office of Education)

## Curriculum, Grants and Resources

Remember to check out the [Volunteer San Diego](#) website for all of our resources that are updated regularly:

### Grant Opportunity to Honor Youth Nestle Very Best In Youth Program

The **Nestle Very Best In Youth Program**, sponsored by Nestle USA, honors young people throughout the United States who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. **Twenty-five young people between 13 and 18 years of age, selected from nominations from volunteers, parents, and teachers, will be featured in a special publication and honored at a ceremony in Los Angeles, CA, in the summer of 2009.** Nestle will also donate \$1,000 in the name of each winner to the charity of his or her choice. Nominees should have strong

backgrounds in citizenship, school, community involvement, and reading. The nomination deadline is **November 20, 2008**. Visit <http://www.nestle-verybestinyouth.com/AboutVBINY.aspx> to download the nomination guidelines and forms.

### **Short on learning or project supplies and materials? Check out DonorsChoose.org as an option!**

**DonorsChoose.org** was created in 2000 by a group of teachers at a Bronx public high school. This organization addresses the issue of the scarce distribution of learning and project materials throughout public schools. **DonorsChoose.org is a simple way to provide students in need with resources that our public schools often lack. At this not-for-profit web site, teachers submit project proposals for materials or experiences their students need to learn.** These ideas become classroom reality when concerned individuals, whom we call Citizen Philanthropists, choose projects to fund.

(Information provided by DonorsChoose.org)

## **Service-Learning Calendar**

**Mark your calendars, here are some events you don't want to miss!**

**Remember to check out the [Project Calendar](#) and the [Trainings & Courses](#) page.**

### **[Exploring the Spiritual, Religious, and Cultural Roots of Service](#)**

**August 8-10, 2008 Marconi Conference Center, Marshall, CA**

Join us for our tenth annual summer retreat which will bring together an intergenerational group of approximately sixty-five people to reflect and share ideas about the role of spirituality, religion and culture in lives dedicated to the service of others. (Marshall, CA is approximately 90 minutes north of San Francisco).

### **[8th Annual Service-Learning Summer Institute](#)**

**Monday, August 11, 2008, Carpinteria High School, Carpinteria, CA**

Presented by CalServe Central Coast Region 8, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Kern, and Ventura Counties and with special guest Cathryn Berger Kaye. Workshop designed for K-12 teachers, SBCSLI, support staff, tutors, librarians, after school staff, curriculum directors, and administrators. Service-Learning community partners from the local business and nonprofit communities are also welcomed

and encouraged to attend.

**Region 9 Service-Learning Council Meeting**

**Thursday, August 21, 2008 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Oceanside, CA**

Join with the members of **Volunteer San Diego's Service-Learning Council** and the **Volunteer Center of Orange County's Orange County Service-Learning Consortium** for our 2nd annual meeting to discuss the vision and groundwork of the service-learning movement in southern California.

- Collaborate and network with educators and nonprofit organizations in San Diego County and Orange County
- Gain valuable resources to implement high-quality service-learning projects
- Create service-learning outreach/informational tools (fact sheet)

For additional assistance and service-learning resources contact:

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