



Curriculum Map: High Quality Service-Learning

Developed by the National Commission on Service-Learning
and Learn and Serve America, 2006

SKILLS FOR ADOLESCENCE (SFA): GRADES 6 – 8

Includes a Service-Learning curriculum unit with five lessons and professional development.

QUALITY STANDARD	Addressed within SFA Curriculum
<p>Academic Basis Links to academic content and standards so that service goals and learning goals blend together and enrich each other.</p>	<p>The purpose of Service-Learning in the <i>Skills for Adolescence</i> curriculum is to engage students in applying social and emotional competencies taught in <i>Skills for Adolescence</i> with the academic skills taught in the middle school curriculum to prepare and carry out Service-Learning projects that met real needs and improve the lives of others in the school and community.</p>
<p>Hands-On Involvement Involves young people in helping to determine and meet real school and community needs.</p>	<p>The <i>Service-Learning</i> unit of <i>Skills for Adolescence</i> consists of five lessons that fulfill the four steps of Service-Learning: Preparation, Action, Reflection, and Demonstration / Celebration. Lessons 1 – 3 are the Preparation step and guide teachers and students to identify a real need, decide on a class project, and plan the project. Students take leadership of the project with the teacher serving as the facilitator.</p>
<p>Mutual Benefit Is reciprocal in nature, benefiting both the community and the service provider with a service that is a learning experience.</p>	<p>Reciprocity is a key theme of the <i>Service-Learning</i> unit, with emphasis placed on students discovering what the specific needs are in the school and community, forming relationships with the recipients of the service, and joining together to plan a project that will be mutually satisfying to both the students and those being served by the Service-Learning project.</p>
<p>Flexible Can be used in any subject area so long as it is appropriate to the learning goals.</p>	<p>The four-step process of Preparation, Action, Reflection, Demonstration / Celebration is a research-based process that delivers high-quality Service-Learning experiences in any subject area. The <i>Service-Learning</i> unit can stand alone as a methodology and set of lesson plans for integrating Service-Learning into any subject area at the middle level.</p>
<p>Age-Independent Works at all ages, even among young children</p>	<p>The <i>Service-Learning</i> unit is designed specifically for middle school students, but the four-step process works with young people ages K – 12 and beyond.</p>



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<p>Student Directed</p> <p>Gives students a choice and voice in selecting, designing, and implementing the service project.</p>	<p>In the <i>Service-Learning</i> unit, youth voice and choice are emphasized as essential elements in high quality Service-Learning. On the Planning for Service-Learning Form on pp. 50 – 51, the category of “Youth Voice and Choice” is included so that teachers and students will plan for that element throughout the four steps of the Service-Learning project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PREPARATION: With facilitation from the teacher, students identify a need in the school and community, meet with the recipients or their agency, develop and plan a project together with all the various tasks required. • ACTION: Students carry out the project. • REFLECTION: Students and the teacher reflect continuously on the project, identifying what is going well, what needs to improve, and making the necessary adjustments to the plan. • DEMONSTRATION AND CELEBRATION: Students demonstrate mastery of the skills and qualities required during the project through reports, videos, displays, etc. They plan a celebration with the recipients of the service to acknowledge their accomplishment.
<p>Direct Community Contact</p> <p>Enables students to have direct contact with those being served.</p>	<p>The Lions-Quest program includes three types of Service-Learning and encourages as much direct contact with the recipients of the service as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct service (face-to-face contact) • Indirect Service (behind the scenes) • Civic Action and Advocacy (on behalf of a cause)
<p>Long-Term Experience</p> <p>Is conducted over time and ideally beyond one semester.</p>	<p>The <i>Service-Learning</i> unit in Skills for Adolescence is designed to provide both a short-term Service-Learning experience and the potential for a long-term project or set of projects that extend throughout the duration of the program. The <i>Service-Learning</i> unit is placed after Unit 2 so that the students have the benefit of the community building and of learning the communication and cooperation skills before embarking on a Service-Learning project. After the Service-Learning unit, each unit has Service-Learning follow-up lessons for the classes that decide to extend their Service-Learning project.</p>



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<p>Structured Reflection</p> <p>Provides students with structured time to think, talk, write, and/or reflect in other ways about what they say, felt, did, and learned during the service experience.</p>	<p>Reflection is a key component of the Lions Quest approach to Service-Learning and is one of the four steps in the Service-Learning unit. Throughout the Service-Learning project and in depth during Step 3: Reflection, students reflect on and write about how they are feeling about the project, what is going well, what needs to improve, and what they are learning, both individually and as a group. They reflect on and document the academic, social and emotional skills they employed to complete the project, what obstacles emerged, what information and skills were needed to handle the situations, and what the final outcome of their Service-Learning project(s) was.</p>
<p>Experienced Facilitation</p> <p>Are led by teachers who are experienced in facilitating service-learning approaches.</p>	<p>Lions Quest provides a two-day professional development workshop for all implementers of the <i>Skills for Adolescence</i> program during which participants learn about high quality Service-Learning. In addition, Lions Quest offers a one-day K-12 professional development in-service on Service-Learning for those who want a more in-depth exploration of high quality Service-Learning and ways to integrate it as an educational methodology into any subject area.</p>