



Teens, Crime, and
TCC the Community

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

YOUTH IN SERVICE



CONTENTS

Engaging Youth in
Service-learning

Featured on the Web

Community Works
Service-learning Grants

Mark Your Calendar!

Spotlight on Service-
learning: Teen Peace

ENGAGING YOUTH IN SERVICE-LEARNING



National and Global Youth Service Day is April 20-22, 2007. It is the perfect time to help teens plan a service-learning project and be part of the largest youth service event in the world. The National Crime Prevention Council is a partner of Youth Service America and supports young people in developing creative crime prevention service-learning projects. In general, a service-learning project has three parts: service, linking, and learning:

- **Service:** The service addresses a real community need that your team has identified. Your service-learning project should solve a problem or help solve one.
- **Linking:** The service-learning project not only meets a real community need but also links to classroom goals.
- **Learning:** Reflection is important to service-learning. This means that youth not only do the project but also think about it (feelings, contributions, challenges, new skills learned, etc.). It is also very important to celebrate the success of your project, acknowledge the people that helped your team complete the project, and share your success with them and other teens.

Community Works (CW) requires instructors and students to perform service-learning projects. This component is important and fun. Once young people have gained the necessary knowledge and skills, Sessions 9–11 of the *Community Works* curriculum challenge them to participate in service-learning projects. Through these projects, they apply what they have learned to address a community problem they have identified. They work together to assess their community's needs, set goals, plan and execute a project, and reflect on the process. Students complete the program with an increased sense of self-esteem and the belief that they have played a positive role in their community and have a stake in its future.

Instructors may find during the course of their *CW* program that the students are excited about a project idea but may have limited time to complete the project. Your students may undertake projects that are designed to be of short, medium, or long duration as described below.

- *Short projects* can be completed in one or two class meetings. Example: Create safety tips posters or table tent cards and display them in the cafeteria or community center.
- *Medium projects* can require a full day to a week of planning. Example: Develop and role-play case studies from one of the topical sessions in the curriculum for younger students.
- *Long projects* can take weeks to plan and execute and may be ongoing. Example: Organize a 911 cell phone drive. Collect old cell phones with chargers to be distributed to victims of domestic violence for use in emergency situations.

Service-learning is a powerful teaching strategy, so start planning your service-learning project today!

FEATURED ON THE WEB



- Download the TCC service-learning grant application from www.ncpc.org/tcc. If you have any questions regarding the projects or application, please contact Belén Pereira at bpereira@ncpc.org or 202-261-4152.

- If you are a *Community Works* instructor who has submitted a *Community Works* Site Agreement Form but has not received a password for the Members Only site, please contact Debra Eisenman at deisenman@ncpc.org or 202-261-4116.

TEENS, CRIME, AND THE COMMUNITY

Lori Brittain
Manager
National Crime Prevention
Council
1000 Connecticut Avenue,
NW
Thirteenth Floor
Washington, DC
20036-5325
Tel: 202-466-6272
Fax: 202-296-1356

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



TCC is hosting a webinar on "Successful Program Implementation Strategies" for *Community Works* on March 29, 2007, 2 pm to 3:30 pm DST. To register, visit: <http://www.ncpc.org/tcc>

The Institute for Integral Development
21st National Conference on the Family in Stress and Crisis
April 2-5, 2007
Santa Fe, NM
Contact:
www.institutefortraining.com

National Crime Prevention Council
8th National Conference on Preventing Crime
October 3-5, 2007
Atlanta, GA
Contact:
www.ncpc.org/NationalConference2007

If you have a question or comment regarding TCC or the *Community Works* program, please contact tcc@ncpc.org.

COMMUNITY WORKS SERVICE-LEARNING GRANTS

The National Crime Prevention Council will award grants of up to \$500 each to support *Community Works* sites that develop service-learning projects that address a social or physical safety issue in the school or community. These grants are intended to encourage and promote crime prevention, community service, and civic responsibility. You can download the application form from www.ncpc.org/tcc.



***Community Works* sites can apply with a different project idea on each of the four deadlines per year. The application is simple and the questions can be answered on one page.** Remaining deadlines for the 2007 school year are April 1, 2007, and June 1, 2007. Three projects judged outstanding by NCPC staff will receive special awards presented at events in their states. So, please keep us informed about your service-learning project's progress!

This year, TCC is inviting youth planning to participate in National and Global Youth Service Day to apply whether or not they are *Community Works* students. Submit applications for National and Global Youth Service Day projects by April 1. Note: Use the special application currently online at www.ncpc.org/tcc. Please forward this grant opportunity to those interested.

SPOTLIGHT ON SERVICE-LEARNING: TEEN PEACE

Teen Peace, a youth group in Carbondale, IL, hosted a youth-led day-long workshop on relational aggression to raise awareness of the effects of these behaviors. Spreading rumors, gossip, lies; telling secrets; eye rolling; and excluding others are some of the cruel actions defined as "relational aggression." Twenty-five female attendees from the Carbondale, Murphysboro, and Cairo areas of Illinois came to learn about this. Parents and neighborhood organizations helped to monitor the event and provided materials.

The Teen Peace youth successfully engaged their attendees with role-playing, worksheets, and other activities to help the audience understand relational aggression. Keynote speakers were also invited to participate. Angie Bailey, from the Jackson County Health Department, spoke about the effects of relational aggression and its potential impact in adulthood. Another partner group, Delta Sigma Theta Inc., conducted a focus group on understanding the importance of sisterhood, as one positive way to address relational aggression among girls. The event ended with a candlelight vigil promoting sisterhood and young participants created a sisterhood rescue kit. The kit consisted of a piece of tissue to dry their tears, bandages to heal hurt feelings, Hershey's hugs and kisses to help make-up with each other, an eraser to remind them that it is okay to make mistakes, a piece of yarn to tie their friendship together, a penny to bring their friendship good luck, a pack of sugar to sweeten up bitterness, gum to help them stick together, paper to write down their feelings, a piece of chalk to remind them that sometimes they have to chalk it up, a star sticker to remind them to shine, a toothpick to remind them to pick their battles, and a lifesaver to remind them that they will always be there for each other. The girls put the bags together as a group. They were told to always refer to the sisterhood rescue kit when dealing with relational aggression.

Teen Peace members and the young girls that participated in the event learned about the importance of internal assets such as self-esteem, sense of purpose, and positive identity. They also learned the magnitude of community involvement. Congratulations Teen Peace for a great service-learning project!