

In Case You Haven't Seen It Yet

Additional Resources that May Be Helpful As You Engage Students in Communities

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse

Learn and Serve America's *National Service-Learning Clearinghouse* is a comprehensive resource for schools, organizations and community members looking to strengthen communities through service learning opportunities. The Clearinghouse provides information and tools to support service-learning efforts, operates national email discussion lists to encourage the exchange of ideas, and houses a growing library collection available to Learn and Serve America grantees.

www.servicelearning.org

Resources for Kids and Teens

The National Service-Learning Clearinghouse has a "Resources for Kids and Teens" website that provides ideas and tools for connecting youth of all ages to service-learning opportunities in their communities. Project ideas and recommended reading for different age groups are highlighted, along with resources for parents and educators.

http://www.servicelearning.org/resources/kids_teens/index.php

Generation Next

The *Generation Next* initiative aims to explore the beliefs, strengths, needs and concerns of the 16-25 year old cohort. To capture the experience of America's emerging leaders, broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff travelled across the country interviewing young people, leading to segments aired on The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, as well as an hour long program aired on PBS Television. The website offers a closer look at the research findings, and a place for young people to give feedback and voice their own concerns and ideas.

<http://www.pbs.org/newshour/generation-next/>

Youth Noise

Youth Noise is an online site for social networking with a deeper meaning. By participating in debates and forums, learning about global causes, and connecting with others who share similar interests and commitments, young people can develop their awareness of and dedication to issues that matter.

<http://www.youthnoise.com/>

Summer of Service

Summer of Service is a national coalition of major youth-serving organizations that are committed to engaging youth in service during the summer months and recognize the potential of youth to identify issues, develop projects, and provide lasting benefits to the communities in

which they live through volunteer service. Any organization that deals with youth ages 5 to 21 is encouraged to become part of the initiative. Sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service in collaboration with USA Freedom Corps, Summer of Service is supported by AmeriCorps, SeniorCorps, Learn and Serve America, and National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) and hundreds of non-profit organizations nationally.

Youth Service America collaborated with the Corporation for National and Community Service to develop a toolkit targets summer program coordinators and staff and is intended for use with small groups of youth.

http://www.nationalservice.org/pdf/07_0510_summer_toolkit.pdf

SEANet

The State Education Agency K-12 Service-Learning Network (SEANet) is a national network of professionals committed to advancing school-based service-learning initiatives in K-12 schools and school districts all across the country. The SEANet website contains information on service-learning as it relates to No Child Left Behind and the SAYES mini-grant applications due December 14th.

<http://www.seanetonline.org/>

Think

MTV has launched Think to give young people everywhere the opportunity to make your life, your community and your world better. The Think community provides the tools so you can do just that. Think is for the sunny-day volunteer, the die-hard activist and literally everyone in between. To any and every young person who's done with standing around when they see injustice, welcome home. This is your place – a connector and organizer of college students, high school dropouts and people on both sides of the political spectrum. So, whether you're all worked up over the environment, global poverty or education rights, you can use Think's one-of-a-kind tools and resources to get a crew together and change the world for the better. Your cause. Your effect.

<http://think.mtv.com/>

Research Studies:

The Corporation for National and Community Service

The Corporation for National and Community Service's Research and Policy Development department has released several studies of interest. If you haven't already, check out:

- *Volunteer Growth in America: A Review of Trends Since 1974*
http://www.cns.gov/about/role_impact/performance_research.asp#VOLGROWTH

- *College Students Helping America*
http://www.cns.gov/about/role_impact/performance_research.asp#COLLEGE
- *Volunteers Mentoring Youth: Implications for Closing the Mentoring Gap*
http://www.cns.gov/about/role_impact/performance_research.asp#mentoring
- *Youth Helping America Series*
http://www.cns.gov/about/role_impact/performance_research.asp#YHA

“Voices Study” –Published by America’s Promise-The Alliance for Youth:

The 2006 Voices Study by America’s Promise – The Alliance for Youth examines the views of a national sample of 10-17 year olds of the fundamental resources they receive in their lives. The critical resources that positively affect youth development are called the Five Promises, and include caring adults, an effective education, and opportunities to make a difference to others. The study reveals that more than two thirds of youth do not benefit from these resources enough to feel their full effects, that there is a dichotomy between youngsters’ hopes and their expectation regarding life goals, and that available resources are not always youth-friendly, and may therefore be resisted.

<http://www.americaspromise.org/uploadedFiles/AmericasPromise/Resources/Research/Voices%20Study.pdf>

“Just Cause—Today’s Activism” – Conducted through MTV’s ThinkMTV:

Sponsored by MTV, the Just Cause - Today’s Activism study looked at the involvement and activism of young people today, with a focus on the barriers that keep young people from becoming active in pro-social causes, and insights on how they can be deconstructed. The study found that how rising adults view and engage in their communities has been redefined, and that there is a disparity between interest and involvement within this cohort. A main conclusion was that youth need their civic engagement opportunities to be characterized by “direction, encouragement and flexibility”, and that pro-social organizations should utilize technology-based social networks to increase effectiveness.

<http://www.mtv.com/thinkmtv/research/pdf/Just.Cause.FNL.APX.pdf>

“Millennials Talk Politics” – Published by CIRCLE

Millennials Talk Politics, a report released last month by the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) and the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, analyzes the responses and views of nearly four hundred college students from 12 four-year universities across the country. The participants convened in small focus groups to discuss the role political and civic engagement plays for their generation, as well as their own attitudes towards and experiences with such engagement. The main findings concluded by the authors are that today’s college students are more engaged than Generation X was, that Millennials are locally involved but ambivalent about formal politics, that Millennials dislike political spin and seek authentic opportunities to discuss ideas, and that institutions of higher education are providing unequal opportunities for their students to become civically and politically engaged.

http://www.civicyouth.org/?page_id=250

“A New Wave of Evidence” - Highlighted by the PTA

The 2002 research article *A New Wave of Evidence: The Impact of School, Family, and Community Connections on Student Achievement*, highlighted by the Parent Teacher Association’s National Standards for Family-School Partnerships effort, illustrates a positive correlation between family involvement and student success. The report suggests that all families can play a central role in ensuring the academic success of their children by participating in family learning-related activities, advocating for their children at school, and developing community partnerships. The report points to specific activities such as afterschool programs and family literacy nights that are especially effective in fostering student success and helps strengthen the PTA’s recommendations for parent and school involvement programs.

http://www.pta.org/archive_article_details_1182798030578.html

The Silent Epidemic: *Perspectives of High School Dropouts*

This report was developed by Civic Enterprises in association with Peter D. Hart Research Associates for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. A primary purpose of this report is to approach the dropout problem from a perspective that has not been much considered in past studies – that of the students themselves. These efforts were designed to paint a more in-depth picture of who these young people are, why they dropped out of high school, and what might have helped them complete their high school education.

<http://www.silentepidemic.org/pdfs/thesilentepidemic306.pdf>