



GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY™



www.GYSD.org

The largest service event in the world.

DC Global Youth Service Day Planning Guide




Serve DC
THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON VOLUNTEERISM
WWW.SERVE.DC.GOV



About serve DC – The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism

Serve DC is the District of Columbia Government agency dedicated to promoting service as an innovative, sustainable solution to address community needs. Serve DC supports District communities with grant funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Department of Homeland Security and promotes the District's spirit of service by engaging residents in meaningful volunteer opportunities and facilitating public, private and government partnerships.

Content for these guidelines is based on Youth Service America's Global Youth Service Day Toolkit.



About Global Youth Service Day



Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is an annual campaign that celebrates and mobilizes millions of children and youth to improve their communities through service and service-learning. Led by Youth Service America, an organization dedicated to improving communities by increasing the number and the diversity of young people serving in substantive roles, GYSD is the largest volunteer event in the world and the only day of service dedicated to children and youth.

As GYSD Lead Agency for the District of Columbia, Serve DC engages youth from every ward of the city to take the lead in addressing critical issues in their communities and across the nation. GYSD Lead Agencies are state or local organizations that convene partners in their city or state, coordinate large-scale service projects, and engage local media and elected officials.

Think Globally, Act Locally!

On GYSD, hundreds of DC youth plan and carry out community service projects in partnership with schools, youth organizations, nonprofits, community and faith-based organizations, volunteer and national service programs, government agencies, and others. As youth engage in meaningful service in the District, they join millions of other young people in more than 100 countries who will also participate in GYSD to inspire change in their communities and take on the world's most pressing challenges.

GYSD is an ideal opportunity for young people to educate the public, media, and policymakers about youth's positive year-round contributions to the community and the importance of service and service-learning. GYSD is also an excellent opportunity for youth to act as "service" role models for their peers and empower other young people to get involved in their communities.



Ready, set, serve! Plan or Find a service Project!

You know what your community needs and your friends want to help. Sounds like a GYSD project in the making! Serve DC provides comprehensive tools, resources, small grant opportunities and support for young people to find or create GYSD service projects.

To find a project near you, visit Serve DC's website, www.serve.dc.gov, to view a listing, or visit Youth Service America's GYSD Map, www.gysd.org/map, to find local opportunities.

Here is the Youth Service America-recommended Investigation, Preparation and Planning, Action, Reflection, Demonstration/Celebration (IPARD/C) method for planning a service project followed by a real-life example.



Global Youth Service Day Goals

- ★ Mobilize and support youth to identify and address the needs of their communities, their country, and the world through service.
- ★ Mobilize and support schools and organizations to provide meaningful opportunities for youth engagement.
- ★ Educate the public, media, and policymakers about youth as leaders in service.
- ★ Celebrate youth as community leaders and resources.
- ★ Inspire young people with a lifelong commitment to community, service and civic engagement.

Service Project Planning Guidelines



Investigate

Identify a need or problem in your community. Ask your friends, family, and neighbors to research the need and find resources that can help.



Plan & Prepare

Strategize how your project can address the results of your investigation. Develop a vision statement to help you determine a goal for success.

What type of service project:

Direct service: Tackle the issue head-on.

Example: Clean up a park and nearby neighborhood.

Indirect service: Provide support.

Example: Raise money/tools to donate to a neighborhood clean up.

Advocacy: Encourage action & raise awareness.

Example: Host a discussion on keeping the park clean.



Create an action plan that includes:

- Day-by-day timeline of the tasks you need to complete before GYSD, and who is responsible for each task.
- Materials or supplies list that includes costs.
- Budget to keep track of spending.
- Outreach plan, which lists who you will recruit to volunteer, elected officials you would like to invite, social media you will use to promote, and partners you would like to team up with.



Act

After all that planning and preparation, it's finally time to put your ideas to work! Make sure everyone knows where to go, what to do, and how to help. Start your social media buzz before the event and take photos and videos, so you can upload them throughout the day and show off your awesome project later. Be ready for questions from volunteers, community members, elected officials, or the media.



Reflect

Reflection is key to understanding why you serve, your project's impact, and what you can learn from this experience. It also provides a chance to measure how your project compares to your original vision and goals. Share your reflections with those involved and seek feedback from the community you served.



Demonstrate/Celebrate

You put in the hard work and it paid off with a successful service day, now it's time to celebrate! Show off your service project to your school, the community, and others. Share photos of your project at a community meeting or submit an article to your community newsletter or local newspaper. You could give awards or throw a party – whatever you do, make sure that everyone gets a chance to celebrate their accomplishments!





A Model DC GYSD Project from start to Finish!

Investigate: "A New Oasis in a Food Desert"

High school freshman Imani recently learned that close to 18,000 DC residents live in "food deserts," or low-income areas with little access to nutritious groceries. She also found out that her neighborhood, where 39% of residents are children, is considered a food desert. She and her friends decide that their community needs better access to healthy food, and she asks her teacher for help planning a community garden.

Plan & Prepare: "The Lay of the Land"

Imani's teacher sets up a meeting with her Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) to discuss the project. They love the idea and agree to provide \$200 to support the garden and partner with her group to recruit volunteers. Imani finds a vacant lot on her block and gets permission to use it for the garden. Imani creates Twitter and Facebook accounts for the garden to generate interest and share information. Imani and her friends set a goal to complete the garden on GYSD and to recruit 10 community members to commit at least one hour a week to maintain the garden. Imani makes a list of tools and supplies and posts it on Facebook to draw support and donations.

Act: "Growing More than Just Vegetables"

Once preparations are complete, Imani and her friends join their neighbors at the vacant lot to break ground on the new community garden. More than 40 neighbors come to donate supplies, tools and labor. Imani and her neighbors sign up for plots and donate more than 80 hours a week to maintain the garden. They plant seeds and water their new crops. A local news station comes by to interview Imani after hearing about her project on Serve DC's website. She credits her friends, ANC, and teacher for helping and thanks the community for their support. Imani's next-door neighbor tells her that she has brought hope and pride to her community.

Reflect: "Keeping Interest Growing Like Weeds"

Imani brings her friends together to talk about what went well and what could have gone better. They distribute thank you cards with a survey to neighbors. Imani is excited that her neighbors came to help out and hopes they will stick with their commitment to maintain the garden. She uses the garden's social media accounts to share photos and reflections and encourage neighbors' continued support. Imani hopes they can host a farmer's market for GYSD next year.

Demonstrate/Celebrate: "Celebrating Service"

A few weeks later, the seedlings are sprouting. Imani invites her neighborhood to a small block party to celebrate. They share recipes and gardening tips. Later, Imani presents her project to her ANC. Her ANC Commissioner announces they will donate tools and fertilizer to keep up the garden. Imani's friends make a photo presentation and put it up on Facebook and Twitter and at school. The group receives certificates of appreciation from their teacher and community service credit for the project.



sample service Project Planning Checklist



INVESTIGATE



PLAN & PREPARE



ACTION PLAN



ACT



REFLECT



DEMONSTRATE/CELEBRATE