



National Learn & Serve Challenge www.learnandservechallenge.org

Education Powered by Service

*A signature event of the National Service-Learning Partnership.
Presenting Sponsor: State Farm® Insurance Companies Foundation.*

We live in a world facing critical challenges that require our collective attention and action. Young people—like all people—yearn to be a part of the solution.

As an extension of the summer phase of United We Serve, the 2009 National Learn & Serve Challenge is a sustained, focused effort to promote youth civic engagement and service-learning, a hands-on teaching method that engages young people in solving problems within their schools and communities as part of academic studies and other out-of-school time learning activities.

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United We Serve began with an initial 81-day burst of service, culminating in a day of service and remembrance on September 11. It will now grow into a sustained, collaborative and focused effort to promote service as a way of life for all Americans. The National Learn & Serve Challenge builds on the success of United We Serve's summer initiative by creating sustained opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school age youth to be engaged learners and active contributors to society year-round.

Approach: Increasing Service-Learning in Our Nation's Schools, College Campuses and Youth-Serving Organizations

The 2009 National Learn & Serve Challenge will kick off October 5-12, 2009 by issuing a national call to action to schools, college campuses, faith-based partners and youth-serving organizations to commit to engaging a significant number of young people in service-learning activities that address the tough problems facing the country. When service is embedded within school curriculum or within the educational goals of a community-based program, learning comes to life when young people understand how their education is relevant to the real world.

Young people—from elementary to college age—will help rebuild and renew their local or global community by using the content knowledge and skills learned in the classroom or a community-based program to create and implement innovative solutions to problems within five priority areas:

- Community renewal, including responding to the economic crisis
- Education, including literacy and keeping kids in school
- Energy and the environment
- Health and nutrition
- Safety and security



Impact: Anticipated Results of the Learn & Serve Challenge

- Youth participation in service-learning significantly increases annually, eventually reaching at least 5 million young people engaged in service-learning each year by 2012
- Measurable progress made in local communities on the specific priority areas: education, community renewal, health, and clean energy and the environment
- Increased visibility and engagement of children and youth in the civic life of their communities, particularly low-income youth and those living in traditionally disenfranchised communities
- Increase in the number of schools that offer service-learning opportunities for students
- Increased local media coverage of service-learning and youth engaged in service-learning

Get Started Today

- **Step 1. Visit www.learnandservechallenge.org** to accept the Challenge. Let us know you are ready to engage young people in service-learning in your classroom, youth group, club, school, campus, faith-based or community organization.
- **Step 2. Gear up for service-learning success.** Access free online resources, lesson plans, planning tools and virtual professional development opportunities. Join Facebook communities to learn from and connect to others.
- **Step 3. Share your service-learning action plan.** Tell us how young people will learn and serve in your school or community.
- **Step 4. Kick-off your Challenge initiative in January.** Build local awareness and support for your local Learn & Serve Challenge by telling your story to fellow community members, local media, civic leaders and public officials.
- **Step 5. Film your issue and your solution.** As an optional, mid-point check-in, participants can create a short video, photo essay or PowerPoint presentation to tell others about the community problem or issue and the solution being implemented to address that issue.
- **Step 6. Showcase your service-learning accomplishments.** In April and May, join Challenge participants nationwide to tell your service-learning story in your local community by hosting a **Service-Learning Solution Summit** at your school, campus, or organization.

The Learn & Serve Challenge is a signature event of the National Service-Learning Partnership in collaboration with the Corporation for National and Community Service. It is made possible with support from **State Farm® Companies Foundation**. The Challenge is supported by nearly 100 local, state, and national organizations committed to engaging in service-learning in our nation's schools, college campuses, and communities. Lead Organizing Partners include:

*America's Promise Alliance
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
Campus Compact
DECA
Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
National Alliance for Faith and Justice*

*National Community Education Association
National Education Association
National Youth Leadership Council
National Parent Teacher Association
SEANet - the State Education Agency K-12
Service-Learning Network
Usher's New Look Foundation
Youth Service America*

For more information, visit www.learnandservechallenge.org or call **(202) 884-8982**.

