



K-12 Service-Learning Ideas

Service-learning is a teaching methodology that combines academic, skills or character learning with hands on volunteer service. Service-learning activities allow students to address real world problems by applying knowledge acquired in the classroom. Research shows that students retain little of what they only hear, but significant amounts of information that they apply. And, student action can truly make a difference in communities. The Volunteer State needs all its citizens in the fight against meth.

Effective service-learning is a four-step cycle of preparation, action, reflection and demonstration/celebration that must be built on student voice and involvement. These examples are starting point ideas for teachers and students. For more information on service-learning, including free training and curricula for teachers sponsored by the TN Department of Education and Lions Clubs International in partnership with the TN Commission on National and Community Service, go to www.volunteertennessee.net or email Meredith.freeman@state.tn.us

English/Language Arts

- Write short stories about the effects of meth in the community. Compile stories and distribute, publish in the school newspaper or post on a website.
- Research and write letters to the editor on meth issues in your community.
- Develop meth-related public service commercial for morning announcements at school.
- Research and publish a Summer Fun Guide for students that gives them drug-free activities for their community.
- Have older students develop presentations to younger students about peer pressure and making healthy choices.
- After a meth-related service project, write stories, poems or plays using the experience as a starting point.

Social Studies

- Research the impact of meth on various sectors of the local community (crime, economy and employers, environment, child abuse, poverty, homelessness, hunger, health care, cost of meth to taxpayers). Share the results on a website or school or local newspaper.

- Conduct an in-depth survey to gather youth perspectives on drug use and meth. Prepare an in-depth report for the community newspaper or website.
- Plan a school assembly and invite a social worker or local official to speak about meth concerns in the community. Invite parents & community members to this assembly as well.
- Make a display in a school building of meth-related news articles.
- Explore the role of government in preventing meth use and write letters to government officials suggesting action they should take.
- Using newspapers, government reports and other sources, research meth as a local issue and brainstorm ways to address it. Test and implement your strategies.

Math

- Create a statistical chart to compare national and local meth stats. Share the results on a website or school or local newspaper.
- Develop, conduct, compile, analyze and graph survey of community groups attitudes concerning meth use and issues. Share the results on a website or school or local newspaper.
- Survey youth on knowledge and opinions related to meth. Analyze the data and convey this information to policy-makers.
- Research costs of meth/crime costs to citizens. Chart and share results. Reflect on reactions to statistics.

Science

- Research the environmental impacts of meth in your community. Share the results on a website or school or local newspaper.
- Adopt a stream polluted by meth. Learn how to test for and ameliorate pollutants.
- Study chemical make-up of meth and discuss harmful impact on humans. Distribute student-created flyer on effects and damages.

Health

- Research, develop and distribute a flyer on how to help a friend using meth or a friend whose parents are using or making meth.
- Organize a drug-free peer support group.
- Study effects of meth-related pollution on children. Create educational pamphlet or publish findings in school newspaper or on webpage.
- Organize a community program or forum on meth issues. Invite parents and local officials.
- Plan a “Healthy Students Festival” and use this as a school-wide cross-curriculum project.
- Research cost of health insurance for meth users and non-users. Graph and publish.
- Research connections between self-esteem/fitness/drug use. Develop posters to convey positive messages for younger students.
- Discuss impact of meth on families and children. Create a brochure for parents on how to talk with kids about it. Distribute at childcare centers. Have students reflect by writing a letter of hopes and guidance to their future child.
- Research meth treatment options. Create an internet folder to share the information.

Physical Education

- Organize a “fun run” for a meth-free community.

Computers/Technical

- Create and share a multi-media educational presentation on meth issues.
- Design and produce “Making Healthy Choices” handbooks.
- Develop and manage a website for research/service projects from other classes.

Industrial Arts

- Develop workplace skills through work-based learning placements at agencies that address community impacts of meth (child advocacy center, food bank, hospital).
- Agriculture students can create a memorial garden for children endangered by meth.
- Culinary arts students can organize a bakesale for children endangered by meth.
- Child care classes can work with agencies that identify needs of children endangered by meth (sheriff, fire department, child advocacy center, Children’s Services) and make backpacks of supplies for children affected by meth OR equip waiting rooms at the jail, etc to be kid friendly.
- Business classes can organize a humane, tactful clothes closet system for fellow students in poverty who need clothing. One high school calls theirs the “Jean Pool.”
- Business students can also organize a stuffed animal or toy drive to provide comfort items to fire and law enforcement officers who encounter children during meth busts.

Arts

- Work with local jail, child advocacy center, Social Services to identify places where children affected by meth are taken after a bust. Use art to make those places feel welcoming and safe.
- Help elementary students create anti-meth posters.
- Create a collage for “My Future Dreams. Also create one for “Effects of Meth on My Future Dreams.” Display.
- Research and produce anti-drug skits or puppet shows for younger students.

*** For as many of these projects as possible, involve members of the community & parents—invite them to speak, ask them to distribute materials, etc. Involve everyone!*

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