

PROGRAM NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Elementary School Educators Can Apply to Attend the Youth Service Summit! (Application Deadline: April 22, 2016)



Students work at one of the stations during the 2015 Youth Service Summit.

Are you interested in engaging your elementary school students in service? If so, apply for the 3rd Annual Service in Schools Youth Service Summit! The Youth Service Summit will be an extraordinary day of service that will inspire, equip, and mobilize youth from schools across the city to change their world. Select New York City public school elementary students in grades 3-5 will participate in several meaningful service projects led by local high school student leaders. Service activities will impact local and global issues from homelessness, health, hunger, the environment, and animals. The event will culminate with a reflection session and call to action where students will celebrate how they positively impacted communities in need and how they can continue this momentum in their own community, both at school and at home. The Youth Service Summit will take place in downtown Brooklyn on Friday, May 27, 2016. For more information click [here](#), and to apply click [here](#). Applications are due by no later than 5:00pm on **Friday, April 22, 2016**. For questions, email ServiceinSchools@schools.nyc.gov.

1

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

C.S. 211 The Bilingual Magnet School in the Bronx



Richard Feldman and students present their project at the Teacher Awards ceremony.

Sixth graders at C.S. 211 The Bilingual Magnet School worked with volunteer and former C.S. 211 educator Richard Feldman on a project of memorialization and remembrance for the tragic events that took place on September 11, 2001. Funded through the 2014-15 Service in Schools Service-Learning Grant, the project culminated in the creation of a mural intended to turnkey the students' learnings from and experiences of visiting the 9/11 Memorial Museum and the 9/11 Tribute Center to other middle school students at the school. The project was recently recognized at the [9th Annual Teacher Awards of the 9/11 Tribute Center](#).

The students learned about September 11, 2001, an event that occurred before they were born. Students studied family life-cycle events such as births, marriages, and deaths, as well as community celebrations and national holidays. Throughout this process, students learned how to use symbols to represent feelings about love, loss, sacrifice, and service.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT (CON'T)

Students visited the 9/11 Memorial Museum where they discussed with docents the artifacts and symbols of remembrance from that tragic day. Students were particularly drawn to artist Spencer Finch's work *Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on That September Morning*, a large wall of multi-hued blue panels, one for each person who died that day at the World Trade Center. Back in the classroom, students examined the ways that people respond to tragedy through firsthand accounts in newspapers preserved from September 11, 2001 as well as the story from Scholastic News, "[I was 11 on 9/11](#)." Students wrote stories about the heroes in their lives and interviewed two guests: a family member who went to find his brother at the site and Jim Walsh, a fire department captain who was at the site. The class asked both literal and reflective questions to help them understand not only what happened, but also how guests coped with their 9/11 experience.

Students returned to the 9/11 Tribute Center, where they heard additional firsthand accounts from people who lost family members that day. They also viewed exhibits that tied the story of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr to another story, *Message on a Wing* by Ericco, which connect the Hiroshima bombing, the September 11 attacks, and the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, with a unifying message of world peace.

Students then prepared to create their school memorial to 9/11 through an art project related to the exhibits they saw at the two museums. From the 9/11 Memorial Museum, they chose to recreate *Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on That September Morning*. Each student selected three photos of an artifact or a symbol that they remembered from their visit, accompanied by captions, which were pasted onto blue notecards and mounted on a poster board. Additionally, with the help of art teacher Ms. Alardo, students made origami paper cranes. On each wing, they glued a saying from *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*: "This is our cry, this is our prayer; peace in the world." Lastly, students attached paper "hands of hope," which were originally made in 2011 to raise money for the victims of Japan's earthquake.

Considering the ways they have memorialized their own family members, students planted roses in the school garden, as well as helped the school custodian build an honor bench. Later this spring, Feldman and the 6th-grade students plan to teach the 8th graders what they learned from their study. By connecting their fears and natural curiosity about 9/11 to experiences from their personal lives, the students were able to grow and think more critically about the world they live in.



Students plant roses in the garden as part of the memorial.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Find Your Park Day of Service: Earth Day (April 16, 2016)



Join the [Student Conservation Association](#) (SCA) for Earth Day service at Gateway National Recreation Area to restore historic Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island. SCA is mobilizing volunteers from coast to coast in celebration of the [National Park Service Centennial](#). Join the SCA to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 16 from 9:30am-2:30pm. Large groups are welcome; free lunch and free Find Your Park t-shirts will be provided for the first 500 volunteers to register. This Find Your Park Day of Service will be the second of five major events taking place in the NYC area in 2016 in partnership with SCA [ConSERVE NYC](#). Click [here](#) for more information and to register for the event, or contact [Ann Pedtke](#) for more information.

3

2016 New York City High School Community Service Conference (Registration Deadline: April 22, 2016)

The 2016 New York City High School Community Service Conference serves to motivate high school students in their community service endeavors and create a new community within New York City high schools. All current New York City high school students are invited to participate. The conference features a panel of speakers spanning a variety of community service fields, including representatives from organizations such as Harlem RBI and DREAM Charter School, Youth Represent, and the Community Healthcare Network. Panelists will provide students with an understanding of the issues their organizations address and speak to the importance of service work in the community, locally, and at school. The event also includes student-run workshops where participants will discuss specific areas of service and/or service work. Student participants are encouraged to submit a workshop proposal form for this activity. Participants will also have the opportunity to converse amongst their peers as well as with select members and leaders of community service organizations. Dinner will be provided. The conference takes place on Friday, May 20, 2016. For more information and to register, contact student facilitator [Sara Caplan](#).

GreenThumb Youth Leadership Council (April 30, 2016)



The [GreenThumb Youth Leadership Council](#) (YLC) is a great volunteer opportunity in the summer months for youth ages 14-21. The program exposes youth to community gardening and teaches them new skills, including food production and composting methods. The program requires youth to complete 20 service hours at a community garden in July and August. There will be service projects to complete at each participating garden, a kickoff celebration, and a graduation ceremony. Students interested in agriculture, composting, botany, construction, stewardship, or community engagement are encouraged to apply. Student graduates of this program will be able to grow their own vegetables and herbs, harvest rainwater, and turn waste into organic fertilizer. The application deadline is Saturday, April 30, 2016. Click [here](#) to apply.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

GO Getter Summer Internship (May 16, 2016)

[The GO Project](#) summer internship is an opportunity for high school students to learn and develop leadership skills while working with GO Project students in academic and/or enrichment classes. During the five-week GO Summer program, interns will work as teaching assistants in one of the GO Project's grade K-5 classrooms under the guidance of a head teacher or enrichment teacher. Interns will work in small groups or one-to-one within the classroom to help students complete projects, remain focused, and build confidence as learners. Interns will also participate in rigorous daily professional development sessions where the Echoing Green book, *Work on Purpose*, will be used to help them discover and enhance their passions and talents to become change-making leaders in their community. Questions about the internship can be directed to [Emily Ong](#), Senior Community Engagement Coordinator. The deadline for applications is Monday, May 16, 2016. Early applications are encouraged, as space is limited. Click [here](#) for more information, and click [here](#) to apply.



4

American Express Save the Park (Ongoing)



[Save the Park](#) is a free mobile game that seeks to inspire and encourage a new generation of park lovers to take an active role in helping preserve these important natural and historic resources for future generations. In the game, players control two characters—a national park volunteer and a Junior Ranger—who work together in three unique park environments to protect animal habitats, plant trees, maintain trails, collect research specimens, help park

visitors, and more. Additionally, Save the Park is part of American Express' partnership with the National Park Foundation (NPF) for [Find Your Park/Encuentra Tu Parque](#), a bilingual public awareness and education movement to inspire people of all backgrounds to discover all that a park can be, share their experiences with each other, and support these treasured places and their unique programs as the National Park Service kicks off its second century in 2016. The American Express Foundation will make a \$1 donation to the NPF for each download of Save the Park occurring on or before December 31, 2016, up to \$50,000 worth, to support park conservation and stewardship work.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Four Free Service-Learning Books for Download

Free Spirit Publishing and author Cathryn Berger Kaye are pleased to provide four service-learning books for download to assist educators with service-learning on the following important themes: hunger and homelessness, protecting and caring for animals, climate change and global warming, and helping others read and succeed. Click [here](#) to read more about these service-learning books and to download them.



RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS (CON'T)

YSA Learning Center



[Youth Service America](#) (YSA) offers youth and their adult mentors free tools and resources to make a difference with high-quality, high-impact service and service-learning projects. The STEMester of Service is a compilation of lessons learned, tips, and moments of insight. Modeled after the [Semester of Service](#) framework, STEMester of Service emphasizes the integration of STEM-based curriculum into service-learning opportunities to achieve academic growth and make a difference in the community. It features sample lesson plans, worksheets/handouts aligned with the IPARD/C model (Investigation, Preparation & Planning, Action, Reflection, Demonstration/Celebration) designed to build 21st-century career and workforce readiness skills, service project exemplars, and results of YSA's national three-year STEMester of Service pilot program. The STEMester of Service program will enable educators to guide students in project development from creation to completion, more effectively engaging students in activities that are directly linked to STEM-based curriculum and college and career readiness objectives. Click [here](#) for the YSA homepage to login or register to access resources like the STEMester of Service. In addition, with the great weather approaching, YSA is excited to share the opportunity to develop 55 great environmental friendly projects that will benefit communities. Click [here](#) to access those projects.

5

CONTACT THE SERVICE IN SCHOOLS TEAM

Does your school have a great service project to share? If so, the Service in Schools team wants to know!

Invite the Service in Schools team to visit your service project. We want to see your students and school community in action. Email the Service in Schools team at ServiceinSchools@schools.nyc.gov with two weeks' notice and we'll schedule a visit to your school to learn about your project and see the impact you're making on the community.



Follow [@NYCDOEService](#) to receive program updates, upcoming service opportunities, resources, and more. We encourage students who use Twitter and are interested in service opportunities to follow us.

Mission: Service in Schools strives to expand the number of NYC students engaged in transformative community service and service-learning experiences that enable them to use their voice, skills, and critical thinking to strengthen communities.