

PROGRAM NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

High School Students Participate in the Service in Schools Leadership Institute



SIS Leaders depict and discuss their diverse array of interests, skills/talents, and areas for improvement.

Over spring break, high school students from across all five boroughs gathered together to participate in the Service in Schools Leadership Institute. The Institute was a week-long youth leadership program facilitated by Maureen Connolly from CBK Associates. The students, known as Service in Schools (SIS) Leaders, were chosen from a very competitive pool of nearly 200 applicants. Each one of the 32 students selected expressed a deep desire to serve as an agent of change in their community.

During the Institute, SIS Leaders discussed issues that affect their communities, as well as leadership strategies they can put into practice in order to address these issues. They learned about the fundamentals of service-learning and how they can serve as role models for their peers, family members, and youth in the community. Based on their preferences and interests, SIS Leaders were separated into five groups focused on researching different issues affecting NYC: hunger, homelessness, health, water pollution, and animals. To enrich the SIS Leaders' learning on these topics, Service in Schools invited representatives from The Bowery Mission, Bronx River Alliance, Fit 4 Life NYC, Food Bank For New York City, and the Humane Society of New York to meet with the student leaders during the Institute. SIS Leaders interviewed and collaborated with these partner organizations in order to learn more about the issue at hand, as well as discuss what they can do to help. After meeting with these representatives, the SIS Leaders began preparing lesson plans and activities for the May 27th SIS Youth Service Summit, which brought together over 200 elementary school students from across the city to engage in service activities led by the SIS Leaders. During the lessons, SIS Leaders informed the younger students about the issue and how they can take action and make a positive difference. Additionally, SIS Leaders incorporated a work of children's literature and a service project that benefited the partner organizations into each lesson.



SIS Leaders meet with Zac Hall of Food Bank For New York City to discuss what they can do to help address the issue of food poverty in the city.

The SIS Leadership Institute proved to be a meaningful and fun experience for all parties involved. Service in Schools was impressed by the SIS Leaders' enthusiasm to learn and become an impactful source of change. We would like to thank this year's participants for their hard work and dedication to addressing the needs of their community.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

The Friendship Bench at P.S. 32 Belmont in the Bronx



The students of P.S. 32's SIS Kids Care Club aim to use the friendship bench to prevent bullying and foster community among their peers.

The students in teacher Dawn Spahn's Service in Schools Kids Care Club (SIS KCC) at P.S. 32 Belmont have worked all year on different service projects, but there is one that they are especially proud of and passionate about: the friendship bench. This project developed over time after students engaged in numerous discussions on identifying and addressing a need in their school community. Their goal was to create something that would have a positive impact that their peers could both see and feel. The SIS KCC students decided to focus their project on the topic of bullying, as the P.S. 32 community had discussed the issue throughout the year. The SIS KCC was determined to create something unique and meaningful to mitigate bullying at their school. After researching the issue further, SIS KCC students decided to build a friendship bench for the P.S. 32 community. The idea behind the bench is that if a student is feeling lonely, sad, or angry, they could sit on the bench, and someone would approach

this person to find out what is wrong and offer their support.

Over the past few months, the SIS KCC worked diligently on bringing the idea of the friendship bench to fruition. The students researched what kind of bench they wanted and where it would come from. Once they decided on a bench, they began working on how they were going to present it to the rest of the school, including its purpose and how it should be used. The SIS KCC decided that they would break into small groups and create skits to demonstrate different peer mediation scenarios for which the friendship bench could be used. These skits emphasized providing a community and social support network for all students at the school, especially those who may feel left out or bullied. Some students worked together to create skits for grade K-2 students, while others wrote skits for grade 3-5 students. Over time, the SIS KCC students practiced, rehearsed, and videotaped their skits. Next, the students brainstormed conversation starters that their peers could use when approaching someone on the bench. Currently, SIS KCC students are finalizing their presentation of the friendship bench for the larger P.S. 32 school community. The students have prepared speeches, charted conversation starters, videotaped their skits, and are planning to visit each class to teach them about the friendship bench and how they can use it to support their peers and in turn, positively impact their school community.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Citymeals on Wheels (Ongoing)



Volunteer with [Citymeals on Wheels](#) and make a difference in the lives of the homebound elderly. Citymeals on Wheels provides a continuous lifeline of nourishing meals and vital companionship to aged New Yorkers, helping them live with dignity in their own familiar homes and communities. Opportunities are available for high school students to regularly volunteer on week-day/weekend meal deliveries, make handmade cards for Citymeals recipients, or become a "kitchen aide" and package food to be delivered to homebound

elderly, as well as serve meals to older New Yorkers at their local senior center. Volunteers are free to

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES (CON'T)

choose the frequency and length of their commitment, which can be as little as a one-time experience or as much as a weekly route. Volunteers under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult. All potential student volunteers must attend an orientation at the Citymeals on Wheels office, at which time students will choose their volunteer opportunity and senior center site. Citymeals on Wheels will ensure each senior center has a coordinator to oversee the program or activity in which the students are involved. For more information on volunteer opportunities for high school students, click [here](#) or contact Vivienne O'Neill at 212-687-1234; ext. 3021.

Participate in STEM Service-Learning Projects with HarborLAB (Ongoing)

[HarborLAB](#) is a group of volunteers and students dedicated to service-learning. It encourages students to view STEM subjects through a green lens. Activities include shoreline cleanups, planting native species directly or with seedballs, making mini-greenhouses from recycled materials, sampling water, and photo safaris by canoe and kayak. To view HarborLAB's service-learning events, click [here](#) or email edu@harborlab.org.



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RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

Service Ideas and Disney Friends for Change Grants from Youth Service America (Applications open June 1)



[Youth Service America \(YSA\)](#) offers a variety of service activities for students interested in volunteering during their summer break. Find out how youth can tackle hunger, protect the world's oceans, participate in Mandela Day, and more. Learn about fun and meaningful summer service ideas [here](#). YSA has also partnered with Disney Friends for Change to offer \$500 grants, available to young people ages 5-18 who are creating lasting, positive change through innovative volunteer and community service projects. Applications open June 1, 2016. For more information and to apply for a Disney Friends for Change grant, [click here](#).

Sign Up for Roots & Shoots Online Summer Course (June 27-July 31, 2016)

[Roots & Shoots](#) is offering a dynamic online professional learning course on service-learning this summer. Free and open to anyone, participants will learn how to identify and implement a local service-learning campaign using the new Roots & Shoots program model. Participants will also learn how to help their students lead community change by mapping needs, collaborating with stakeholders, and designing practical solutions in the form of campaigns. Coursework includes a campaign plan submission, one peer review, and three quizzes. Those who complete the course with an average score of at least 80% are eligible to receive a Certificate of Completion from the Jane Goodall Institute indicating the number of professional learning hours that occurred during the five-week course. For more information on this course and to register, click [here](#) or email RSOnlineLearning@janegoodall.org.



RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS (CON'T)

EarthEcho International Action Guides for Educators



EarthEcho International provides free educator resources to support high-quality middle and high school classroom experiences. These resources include service-learning action guides to equip young people with the tools to explore and protect their local natural resources. Action guides are available on the topics of storm water, waste stream, environmental impact of the food we eat, water quality, energy efficiency, and more. These guides, co-written with service-learning expert Cathryn Berger Kaye, not only incorporate best practices for service-learning, but also satisfy Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards. Action Guides and more resources can be found [here](#). For questions, email education@earthecho.org.

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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](https://twitter.com/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.