

PROGRAM NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

Over 200 NYC Students Participate in the Service in Schools Youth Service Summit

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A Service in Schools Leader supporting elementary school students in their service project

On Friday, May 26, 182 elementary students from across New York City came together at NYU Kimmel Center in Manhattan to participate in the 4th annual Service in Schools (SIS) Youth Service Summit, a day for elementary school students to engage in service projects and become motivated to serve their communities. 35 high school student leaders led the Summit as the culmination of their participation in April's week-long Service in Schools Service Leadership Institute, facilitated by Maureen Connolly from CBK Associates. These high schoolers, who became certified Service in Schools Leaders (SSLs), planned and led engaging lessons and service projects for elementary school students in grades 3-5 that addressed issues impacting their communities: homelessness, pollution, hunger, health, and animals. During the Summit, elementary school students completed service

projects to address these issues with the guidance of the SSLs. Students created animal adoption kits, decorated tote bags to promote water conservation, designed thank you cards for food donors, packed fitness kits with exercise suggestions for children, and made kits for children in shelters that included journals with encouraging messages. These service projects were donated to The Humane Society of New York, Fit 4 Life NYC, the Bronx River Alliance, City Harvest, and The Bowery Mission. Representatives from these organizations spoke at the Youth Service Summit and witnessed the hard work the SSLs and elementary students put into their service projects.

The Youth Service Summit also included a fun and inspiring performance from beatboxer Chris "Shockwave" Sullivan, who motivated students to use their talents and passions to contribute to their community. The Youth Service Summit culminated with reflection sessions led by the SSLs, during which students reflected on how the day's lessons made them feel about issues in their communities and discussed how they could share their knowledge and service ideas with their family, friends, and peers. Through the SIS Youth Service Summit, elementary and high school students alike were empowered to serve as agents of change in their own communities.



Chris "Shockwave" Sullivan encouraged students to serve their communities.

PROGRAM NEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS (CON'T)

Service in Schools Celebrates the 2016-2017 Kids Care Clubs

On Wednesday, May 31, seven groups of students, educators, and chaperones from around the city came together to recognize the third cohort of Service in Schools (SIS) Kids Care Clubs. The Celebration of Service honored the awesome service work that elementary students accomplished in their SIS Kids Care Club during the 2016-17 school year. The Kids Care Club from P.S. 173 Fresh Meadows joined the Celebration of Service for a second time, as facilitator Jean Mendler formed the club as a member of the 2014-15 SIS Kids Care Club cohort. During the presentation portion of the Celebration of Service, students had a chance to present their own Club's accomplishments as well as to ask questions and celebrate the work of other clubs. Students presented on a wide range of projects that their SIS Kids Care Clubs engaged in this year, including park and neighborhood beautification, creating get well cards for children in hospitals, and designing sustainable shopping bags.



Students from P.S. 173 Fresh Meadows presenting their club's service

Following the presentations, SIS Kids Care Club partner organization [generationOn](#) led participants through a service project focused on energy conservation. Students decorated water droplet magnets with messages on water conservation and paper light switch covers with phrases like "Turn me off!" and were able to take their magnets and light switch covers home to remind their family to conserve energy. Prior to leaving the Celebration, each Club member was presented with a certificate recognizing their service accomplishments. The SIS Kids Care Club Celebration gave students a chance to celebrate and reflect on all their hard work this school year, and students walked away feeling proud of their achievements and motivated to do more.

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

P.S. 721 Stephen McSweeney School

P.S. 721 Stephen McSweeney School is a District 75 high school in the Bronx that serves students from the ages of 13-21. Their program features academic, social, and vocational components with a special emphasis on the arts. Educators at McSweeney have been focusing on increasing student voice in class and at students' work sites and have found service-learning to be a great way to achieve this.



Stephen McSweeney students present their work to Councilman Vacca

While walking to their work sites, students noticed the streets were covered in litter and determined this would be the focus of their service-learning project. Students wrote a convincing letter to their New York City Councilman, James Vacca. They were excited when they received a prompt response and a request for a meeting. Two classes prepared for the meeting by creating a poster board with photos of the issue and their proposed solution. The students suggested a cleanup and installing additional trash and recycling bins throughout the neighborhood. The meeting was successful, and Councilman Vacca's Infrastructure and Economic Coordinator contacted the Department of Sanitation to install the bins and

SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT (CON'T)

request a neighborhood cleanup. Educator Jeremy Kottkamp, a participant in the 2016-17 SIS Service-Learning Institute, noted that the project not only improved the environmental conditions of the neighborhood but also improved students' ability to understand and engage in community politics. Students at McSweeney's film and production work site recorded the visit from Councilman Vacca and created a short film to share with the entire school and inform them about tools for civic engagement.

CURRENT AND UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

New York Restoration Project (NYRP) Forest Crew ([Ongoing](#))



NEW YORK
RESTORATION
PROJECT

High school students interested in helping the environment can volunteer on Sundays in Highbridge Park with the NYRP Forest Crew. This volunteer program is open to community members who wish to improve the health of the forest by identifying and removing invasive plants on a weekly, bi-monthly, and monthly basis. High school students, environmental enthusiasts, and those who are looking to enter the green collar-field are strongly encouraged to attend regularly and to view this as an apprenticeship opportunity. Priority registration will be given to regular and repeat volunteers if attendance approaches program capacity. Click [here](#) to learn more about this opportunity. Click [here](#) to RSVP.

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City Harvest Mobile Markets and Green Market Rescues ([Ongoing](#))

City Harvest pioneered food rescue in 1982 and, this year, will collect 55 million pounds of excess food to help feed the nearly 1.4 million New Yorkers struggling to put meals on their tables. Youth 14 years or older can help City Harvest to fight hunger in NYC by volunteering at City Harvest's Mobile Markets and youth 13 years or older can volunteer at Greenmarket Rescues. Students of all ages can also organize a food drive. Please note that all volunteers must first attend an orientation, and youth restrictions vary from project to project. Click [here](#) or email volunteerservices@cityharvest.org to learn more about these opportunities.



Masa After-School Program ([Ongoing](#))



masa
transforming communities through education

Masa is a non-profit organization that partners with Latino immigrant youth and families in the South Bronx to develop strong learners and leaders. At the Masa After-School Program, volunteer tutors ages 16 and up help students complete their homework. Whenever possible, tutors work with the same students from week to week, nurturing a mentorship between them and their students. Volunteers also facilitate activities focused on building literacy skills and a growth mindset. Masa is actively recruiting for the 2017-18 school year and asks potential volunteers to express interest by September 1, 2017. Click [here](#) to complete the volunteer interest form and to receive more information.

RESOURCE HIGHLIGHTS

National Park Service: Citizen Science Resources

The National Park Service offers many opportunities in the New York City area and nationally for student service-learning through a variety of citizen science projects. Here in NYC, students assist in scientific research through organized events and ongoing studies around important park issues at Gateway National Recreation Area. Gateway also offers resources for several citizen science programs, including the Clean Shore Corps in which students collect data about plastic marine debris and come up with ways to reduce trash. There are lessons, materials, and field trip opportunities for each program. Educators interested in having a class participate in citizen science activities at Gateway should plan to attend an afternoon workshop at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Wednesday, September 13 or Wednesday, October 18 from 4:00-5:30pm. Click [here](#) to learn about the citizen science resources and field trips at Gateway. Email [Kathryn Gilson](mailto:Kathryn.Gilson@nps.gov) for more information and to make a workshop reservation.



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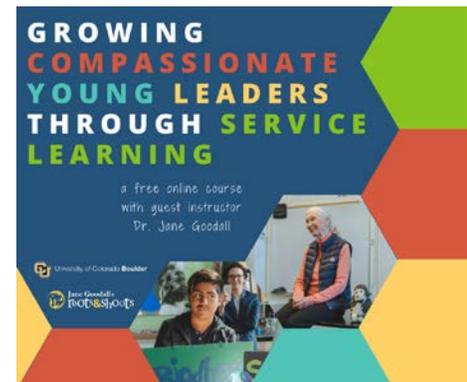
Roots & Shoots: Growing Compassionate Young Leaders through Service Learning



Jane Goodall's
Roots & Shoots

Roots & Shoots is offering an online professional development course that is free and open to everyone.

Growing Compassionate Young Leaders through Service Learning teaches participants how to identify and implement a local service-learning campaign using the Roots & Shoots Program Model. Through this training, participants will be able to inspire and activate young students to develop a service-learning campaign. Participants will also be able to access curriculum materials, lesson plans, activity guides, and tutorials. Click [here](#) to learn more about this training and to access Roots & Shoots' additional resources for educators.



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.