

YCoP Links
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YCoP: Youth Community of Practice

The Youth Community of Practice (YCoP) global listserv links professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to effective youth development ideas, information and best practices to help:

- *Design more effective, sustainable youth programs, and
- *Better integrate youth participation in USAID development projects

In this *Links*: Service Learning

Service learning is a form of experiential education that integrates meaningful community service with academic instruction and reflection. It is meant to both enrich the learning experience and address community issues. This *YCoP Links* highlights events, projects and resources that explore the intersections—between formal and nonformal learning, youth and adults, schools and communities—that comprise the service learning field.

Announcements:

Global Youth Service Day

<http://www.gysd.org/home/index.html?width=1280>

This ninth annual celebration of youth volunteers, during which millions of youth will highlight and implement community improvement projects around the globe, is held April 25-27. See the link above to register or find out more.

Youth for a Change: The 19th Annual National Service-Learning Conference

<https://programs.regweb.com/metro/NYLC2008/registration/>

Taking place in Minneapolis from April 9-12, this conference brings together youth and service-learning practitioners for more than 200 workshops in service-learning, addressing topics from advocacy and community-based organizations to spirituality. This year's event also hosts the Indigenous Service Forum, the second annual Service Learning World Forum, and notable speakers such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Urban Service-Learning Institute

http://www.nylc.org/happening_event.cfm?oid=5848

The fifth annual institute for urban service-learning will be held June 26-27 in Saint Paul, Minnesota, hosted by Metropolitan State University. The event focuses on improving outreach and implementation of service-learning specifically for urban environments.

Projects and Initiatives

EQ Review: Youth Service Learning

http://www.equip123.net/EQ_Review/6_1.pdf

Youth service-learning projects in the West Bank, South Africa, Brazil and Kenya are the focus of the *EQ Review*'s March 2008 edition, published by the Education Quality Improvement Program 1 (EQUIP1). The Ruwwad project, for example, has developed a "by youth, for youth" civic volunteer program in the West Bank whose 45 core leaders and 800+ youth volunteers have carried out service-learning activities in more than 140 Palestinian communities in only two years, with initiatives varying from summer camp coordination to provision of emergency food and medical aid.

Roots & Shoots

<http://www.rootsandshoots.org/aboutus/model>

Founded by Jane Goodall, Roots & Shoots provides a general youth service model with programming ideas that can be adapted to the appropriate age group and program. The model revolves around knowledge, compassion and action. Project ideas include fundraising for wildlife, group projects for peace, promoting the use of re-usable bags and planting tree nurseries. Membership is required to gain access to the toolkit for starting a club, but quick and free registration is possible.

Resources for Practitioners

Effective Practices for Engaging At-Risk Youth in Service

http://tools.ysa.org/downloads/modules/Engaging_At-Risk_Youth_in_Service.pdf

Youth Service America presents a new publication that provides an overview of the underlying theory and effective practices for engaging at-risk youth in service. The guide calls for "an innovation of our perception and appraisal" of at-risk youth and youth offenders, looking to them as potential leaders and community assets. Through theoretical and anecdotal approaches as well as practical recommendations for project coordinators, the publication addresses why and how to provide service opportunities especially for at-risk youth.

National Youth Leadership Council

http://www.nylc.org/resource_center.cfm

The National Youth Leadership Council's website hosts a resource center with articles, project descriptions and toolkits useful for designing and assessing service-learning projects. The toolbox section includes "tip sheets" on academically and developmentally appropriate service, youth voice, and meeting genuine community needs, among others.

What Kind of Citizen? The Politics of Educating for Democracy

http://mail.google.com/mail/?ui=2&ik=955598d5d9&realattid=f_felj4jsn&attid=0.1&disp=vah&view=att&th=1191516519424bd3

Authors Joel Westheimer and Joseph Kahne propose three different citizen "types" and examine how civic education programs and their effects vary greatly depending on what kind of citizen is envisioned by program designers. Through a discussion of two case study service-learning projects, roles and learning outcomes for personally responsible,

participatory and justice-oriented youth are explored. While the case studies are based in American schools, the findings are relevant for those who design and implement out-of-school and international service-learning projects as well.

Looking for YOUR input: We would like to hear from you! YCoP welcomes ideas, resources, and best practices on effective youth programs and youth participation. We would also like to encourage nominations of other youth practitioners or youth leaders to participate in the YCoP Links listserv. Hit “reply” to send information and feedback to YCoP Links.

To **unsubscribe** from the list, users should send an e-mail to listserv@info.usaid.gov with only “**unsubscribe youthcop**” in the body of the e-mail. **(No signatures please).**

Mission of YCoP: The Youth Community of Practice provides a forum for professionals and practitioners at USAID and its partner organizations to gather, consolidate, archive, disseminate and exchange information, knowledge, ideas and best practices, particularly related to the incorporation of youth participation in USAID development projects. The Youth Community of Practice is an informal body of volunteer members, reached through a global list serve and Washington-based chapter. Both the list serve and DC chapter forums include USAID staff, youth practitioners outside of the Agency, and youth themselves. It is jointly sponsored by the office of education in the bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at USAID and the Education Quality Improvement Program3 (EQUIP3), and implemented by the Education Development Center, Inc. (EDC).

Disclaimer: The information and opinions expressed in the materials provided through YCoP Links or posted by listserv participants is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily represent the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. Government or EQUIP3. For a copy of the guidelines and/or charter, put the request in the subject line of the email and send to: youthcop@lists.info.usaid.gov. Participants should be aware that the list is public and not private communication. When participants voluntarily disclose personal information on a list serve, that information can be collected and used by others and may result in unsolicited messages from other people.
