

## TOOLS & MODELS FOR SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS

The first priority with any service-learning project is student involvement. A successful program allows students to practice leadership skills and realize their power to affect change.

### Tips for Youth Driven Projects

Actively involving students in decision-making, critical thinking, and problem solving will inspire personal investment, commitment, and responsibility. There are many ways to utilize youth voice. Here are a few simple and practical ways.

- Start small by enhancing projects that may already exist in your program.
- Be flexible. Focus on the process and not the final outcome.
- Let the students identify the community need and project idea.

- Give students leadership opportunities such as making phone calls, writing press releases (see Recognition link), or facilitating meetings.
- Develop partnerships and be resourceful. Have students use the Internet or phone book to find a local volunteer center, homeless shelter, or senior center to work with on a regular basis.
- Allow students to share their reflections with a wider audience of peers or parents.
- Celebrate efforts! Regularly congratulate young people for their work.

### Start-up Tools

We've included items that you can print from the CD ROM to get you well on your way with the program.

A sample kick-off agenda has been prepared in Microsoft Word so that you can add or subtract items to fit your needs. The same file contains staff training materials. Refer to filename ekickoff.doc on your SLOOPY CD ROM.

The SLOOPY workbook is a step-by-step guide for staff members to use in facilitating the project planning process with the students. A hard copy is provided with this CD and extras can be printed from the CD's pdf version with the filename of workbook.pdf.

### Publicity

Don't forget to check out the publicity section of your SLOOPY CD ROM. It contains text that you can cut, paste and alter to spread the word about your students' work.

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Meet Maria and Karen.

Maria and Karen are both 12 years old. Before the service club started at their school, they would either watch TV in their empty apartment or play video games at the local drop-in center after school. Through their service club, they now plan monthly visits to the local senior center. They are improving their speaking skills by talking with the seniors and are enhancing their writing through cards to their "adopted" grandparents. They don't notice these new skills, though. They just know that they are an important part of the project and attend every week because it's fun.



### Garfield Charter School YCS Club

The Garfield school campus was covered with trash every day after school. Students did not like wading through bottles and paper to play basketball, but did not know how to change the situation. As a service project, students promoted a clean campus week with posters, speeches from the custodian, and a reward for everyone that helped. The campus stayed clean for a week, and students got additional trashcans donated to help *keep* it clean. Now they really care about their campus and help clean it every week.

### Belle Haven Elementary School

When students at Belle Haven School saw homeless people downtown, they felt nervous and uncomfortable. They wanted to help these people, but didn't think they could do anything about it. Through their service club, they organized a canned food drive and collected over 2,000 cans. They donated the cans and not only helped address poverty, but also realized they could take charge and change things. Now when they see a problem, like violence or trash, they think of ways to solve it.





### **Student Incentive Tools**

The SLOOPY CD ROM includes incentive items to help you recognize your students' talents and achievements. Certificates of appreciation make project completion celebrations special. Your SLOOPY CD ROM includes a Microsoft Word certificate template (fcertif.doc) that can be customized with student names and dates and printed on any color inkjet or black and white printer.

SLOOPY-tags (only *the* coolest student incentives ever!) are available to registered SLOOPY programs free of charge. They're an effective and fun way to tell your students how valuable their unique abilities are.

When a team member demonstrates outstanding efforts with the project or shows personal growth, you can recognize their achievement by giving them a tag. The process can be as ceremonial or casual as you want; your positive message will come through

regardless. The set includes copies of a variety of positive reinforcements including:

- compassionate
- cooperative
- respectful
- committed
- optimistic
- patient

The tags include a ball-chain to maximize their visibility. Every time your students glance at them hanging from their backpack or zipper they'll be reminded of their success.

You can order SLOOPY-tags free of charge by filling out the registration form on your SLOOPY CD ROM (gregistr.dot) and emailing or faxing it to YCS. You can also visit YCS at [www.youthcommunityservice.org](http://www.youthcommunityservice.org) and register online.