Citizenship Washington Focus (CWF): A Call to Action

A CALL TO ACTION FOR MINNESOTA YOUTH DELEGATES

PAST MINNESOTA YOUTH DELEGATES WHO HAVE ATTENDED CWF HAVE DESCRIBED THE EXPERIENCE AS A “ONCE IN A LIFETIME” EXPERIENCE. HOWEVER, THE EXPERIENCE IS NOT MEANT TO END WHEN YOU RETURN HOME.

THIS CALL TO ACTION DOCUMENT IS TO HELP YOUTH DELEGATES BETTER PREPARE FOR BRINGING THEIR EXPERIENCE HOME IN A REAL AND MEANINGFUL WAY.

BEFORE THE CWF CONFERENCE

As part of the Minnesota CWF application process, youth delegates were asked to consider how they would “pay it forward” by coming home and using what they learned to become active citizens in their community. Youth delegates are asked to prepare for this responsibility by:

• Identifying an adult who could become the adult partner and mentor as youth use their voice to explore and implement a plan of action.
• Begin to consider a community or state issue that is important to you. Begin to think what you would do about that issue. Are there other issues? (See Attachment A, Identifying a Meaningful Service-Learning Project.)
• Visit with other young people who are attending CWF from your region or from your County, both from the 4-H program and from other programs. How could you work together?
• Think beyond just a presentation of what you learned. However, as Service to 4-H, we do want you to share what you learned. (See Pay it Forward Agreement.)
• Look at resources to help you think about how you would carry-out a community action plan that is meaningful to you and your group. Is this project meaningful to the community? Will it be a community service project, a service-learning project, or a social awareness project? Are you aware of the differences? (See Attachment A, Identifying a Meaningful Service-Learning Project.)
• Prepare to have a great experience at CWF learning about citizenship and preparing you to “take action” upon returning home.

DURING CWF CONFERENCE

While at the conference, youth delegates will progress through a series of workshops during the week starting with the basics of good citizenship. By the end of the week, youth delegates will
have begun community action planning as they develop ideas for their own communities. During the week:

- Required attendance at the CWF Pre-Workshop on the day of departure will give you the knowledge to be successful.
- Adult chaperones will help your group process what you have been learning and about how to develop a "take home" action plan to implement in your communities.
- While at the conference: Listen, Learn, and Be Open!!
- Be thinking about how you will move to action when you return home. How will you inform and work with your adult mentor back home?

**AFTER THE CWF CONFERENCE**

Take Action!!

- Meet with your adult mentor to help you think about implementing your “take it home” ideas.
- Decide whether additional training is necessary in order to move from a community service action plan to a service-learning action plan.
- If you have not yet begun with a community action plan, gather a group to think about what you want to learn and what you want to do to address a community issue. Work with others. During this pre-, during- and post-service, use the cycle for service-learning. Learn how to implement the Standards for Service-Learning. (YOUTH VOICE AND REFLECTION MUST HAPPEN THROUGHOUT THE CYCLE.)

  - **PRE-SERVICE**
    - INVESTIGATION – (Ask these questions in Attachment A – *Identifying a Meaningful Service-Learning Project*. Brainstorm ideas.)
  - **DURING-SERVICE**
    - ACTION – Carryout your action plan.
  - **POST-SERVICE**
    - REFLECTION – How are you reflecting throughout this experience?
    - CELEBRATION – How can you and your group share what was learned?
    - SUSTAIN – What next?

**YOUTH DELEGATES WILL RECEIVE TWO E-MAILS, ONE IN SEPTEMBER AND ONE IN DECEMBER, 2016**, for the purpose of gathering additional “CWF: A Call to Action” programming information and also evaluation information. Questions will consist of: 1) What is your action plan?; 2) Have you completed your action plan?; 3) Who is helping you complete your action plan?; 4) Are you working with a group?; 4) What did you learn?; 5) How do you know if you met a real community need?; 6) How have you reflected on this experience?; 7) How did you share your experience? and 8) Who was your 4-H audience that you made a presentation to?
RESOURCES

Corporation for National and Community Service: Learn and Service America found at http://www.learnandserve.gov/

Minnesota Department of Education found at http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/Learning_Support/Counseling_Character_Service_Learning/Service_Learning/index.html

National 4-H Service-Learning Curriculum found at http://new.4-hcurriculum.org/projects/servicelearning/

National Youth Leadership Council found at http://www.nylc.org/

National Service-Learning Clearinghouse found at http://www.servicelearning.org/


QUESTIONS

For further information or for additional training and resources on service-learning and developing an action plan, please contact Judith A. Conway, University of Minnesota Extension Center for Youth Development, conw0076@umn.edu.

ATTACHMENT A
IDENTIFYING A MEANINGFUL SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT
Pre-Service (Investigation)

Listening

What/who needs our help or voice?
- Conduct a Survey
- Read Local Newspaper
- Invite Community Agency Visitors
- Conduct a Student Community Search
- Community Walk

Discuss “How youth would like the world to be different?”
- Discuss Important Issues
- Create a Vision World-School-Community
- Topics of Interest You are Studying in School
- School Issues

Collaborate with Existing Programs
- Other Partners
- Community Organizations
- Other Youth Serving Organizations

Focus on Key Public Issues
- Ask Direct Questions of Officials
- What are Key Issues?

Build on Student Expertise
- What Expertise do Youth Have?
- Specific Project of Passion