Maryland State Department of Education

Service-Learning Fellow Project

Frederecycle

Middletown High School,
Frederick County,
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Primary Subject:
Environmental Science

Grade Level: 10-12

Additional Subject Area Connections: Biology

Project Title: Frederecycle

Type(s) of Service:
Direct
Indirect
Advocacy

Project Description:
Recycling for a Frederick City Festival

Potential Service-Learning Action Experiences:

- Advocate for recycling and spearhead recycling efforts
- Educate others about the benefits of recycling
- Create a passion for protecting the environment

Maryland State Curriculum Indicators

Environmental Science/Biology

SC.ENS.90	**Students will identify factors affecting the future of the environment and investigate current environmental issues.**	
	SC.ENS.90.01	Develop and implement an action plan concerning an environmental issue. (CLG 6.4.2, CLG 6.4.4, CLG 6.4.5, CS 6.12.5)
SC.ENS.75	**Students will demonstrate an understanding of the need for conservation and appropriate management of biotic and abiotic natural resources**	
	SC.ENS.75.04	Explore ways to manage solid waste. (CS 6.12.4, CS 6.12.5)
	SC.ENS.75.05	Distinguish between degradable, biodegradable, and nondegradable pollutants. (CS 6.12.4, CS 6.12.2, CS 6.2.1)
SC.ENS.85	**Students will recognize the Chesapeake Bay as a valuable natural resource.**	
	SC.ENS.85.01	Identify the human activities which have historically modified the Bay. (CS 6.12.2, CS 6.12.4, CS 6.3.4, CS 6.2.2, CS 6.3.2, CS 6.12.5, CS 6.2.3, CS 6.3.3)
	SC.ENS.85.02	Describe the biotic and abiotic characteristics of the Bay. (CS 6.12.2, CS 6.2.3, CS 6.2.1, CS 6.2.2)
	SC.ENS.85.03	Explain the value of wetlands. (CS 6.12.2, CS 6.12.4, CS 6.3.4, CS 6.2.4, CS 6.3.2, CS 6.12.5, CS 6.2.2, CS 6.3.3)
	SC.ENS.85.04	Discuss the economics of the Bay. (CS 6.12.5)
	SC.ENS.85.05	Compare and contrast public and private efforts to save the Bay. (CS 6.12.5)

Alignment with Maryland's Best Practices of Service-Learning:
Frederecyle

1. Meet a recognized community need

The project is designed to instill habits of recycling and teach environmental preservation strategies. The Frederick County's landfill is running out of space. The Frederick County Service-Learning Advisory Board (SLAB) is a student-led organization that does many different kinds of service-learning projects throughout the year. SLAB conducted a recycling campaign during the Frederick "In the Streets Festival." SLAB had recycling stations that the students manned during the festival. The service involved sorting recyclables, glass, plastic, and aluminum beverage containers. These items were transferred from the collecting stations to storage trucks. The group of Frederick County High School students, dressed in bright green t-shirts, enjoyed the "In the Streets" event by promoting the importance of recycling. This particular project is to help bring awareness to the public of the need and importance of recycling. Students have worked yearly with the Office of Special Events for "Celebrate Frederick" to coordinate this effort.

2. Achieve curricular objectives through service-learning

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SC.ENS.85.03 Explain the value of wetlands. (CS 6.12.2, CS 6.12.4, CS 6.3.4, CS 6.2.4, CS 6.3.2, CS 6.12.5, CS 6.2.2, CS 6.3.3)
SC.ENS.85.04 Discuss the economics of the Bay. (CS 6.12.5)
SC.ENS.85.05 Compare and contrast public and private efforts to save the Bay. (CS 6.12.5)

SC.BIO.75 Students will investigate a biological issue and develop an action plan. (CS.6.12.5, CLG 6.4.4)
SC.BIO.75.01 Students will analyze the consequences and/or tradeoffs between technological changes and their effect on the individual society and the environment. (CS 3.12.12*, CLG 3.6.1*) TA
SC.BIO.75.02 Students will investigate a biological issue and be able to defend his/her position.

Becoming environmentally conscious and aware of dangers that communities face as they preserve their surroundings is a prime example of the direction that service-learning can take. Students are challenged everyday through the curriculum to learn what needs to be done in order to preserve our world. The benefits of recycling are just one way that students can apply teacher instruction outside the classroom. Schools have decided to positively impact the environment by reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfills.

3. Reflect throughout the service-learning experience

The process of preparation and action included reflection in various forms. During the planning process students reviewed feedback from the previous year. During the In the Streets event, changes were made as needs were identified. Following the event, students individually completed written reflection questions. Later, at the SLAB meeting, student feedback was analyzed and suggestions were made to improve the event in the future.

4. Develop student responsibility

Students and co-advisors held regular meetings during the summer and early fall to plan for In the Streets. SLAB students attended a leadership workshop in August where students discussed the characteristics of a good leader. Students made decisions about materials needed, time line of preparation, logistics of recycle bins, trucks for removing the recycled items, promotion of the event, and individual responsibilities. Students developed ideas for creating awareness of the need to recycle, such as

creating a banner, a display board of recycling facts, and a "corn hole" game using aluminum cans.

5. Establish community partnerships

We partnered with the following groups and organizations:

- The Carroll County Rotary Club-provided trucks to transport bins and recyclables
- Frederick City Office of Special Events-coordinated the location for set up and supported the recycling project
- The Sierra Club-supported the recycling awareness and collaborated with SLAB
- Mayor of Frederick City-granted approval
- Downtown City Businesses-participated in a recycling survey and allowed signs to be posted in their shops encouraging recycling
- Jean Peterson Graphic Design company-created a design for the project logo
- Career and Technology Center-printed the Frederecycle Posters

As a result of this project, partnerships were initiated with Oktoberfest and The Myersville Trolley Festival for additional recycling projects.

6. Plan ahead for service-learning

- Movie clips from the previous year were used on the morning announcements
- Press release in local media
- Empty coca-cola bins were donated to be used for the collection of recycled items
- Students coordinated with the City of Frederick to inform vendors of our recycling efforts and to select the locations of the bins
- Students created and collected data from downtown businesses about recycling practices and published the results
- Gloves and large trash bags were purchased
- "Frederecycle" slogan and T-shirts were printed with the SLAB logo
- Students and advisors met regularly to plan details of the event

7. Equip students with knowledge and skills needed for service

Students learned:

- How to organize an event
- How to collaborate and work with partners in the schools and community
- The importance of creating an awareness on the recycling issue
- The benefits of recycling
- About solid waste management
- About how recycling in their watershed affects the Chesapeake Bay

- How each individual can be a positive influence on their environment
- The importance of working together to create a better world
- How to work as a team

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