

11.11 LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA

Learn and Serve America provides support to schools, higher education institutions and community-based organizations that engage students, their teachers, and others in service-learning.

Using Service as a Vehicle for Learning—A Most Valuable and Powerful Lesson

Service-learning is a method of teaching and learning that connects classroom lessons with meaningful service to the community. Students build academic skills while strengthening communities through service. Benefits include improved academic achievement, increased student engagement and civic skills and stronger communities.

Learn and Serve America supports service-learning across the country through:

1. **Learn and Serve America grants**, available to K-12 schools, higher education institutions, Native American tribes, community-based organizations, and others to assist in the planning and implementation of service-learning programs.
2. **Training and Technical Assistance**, through the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse provides a library of lesson plans, research, and project examples to support service-learning programs.
3. **Recognition Programs** such as the President's Volunteer Service Award that acknowledge outstanding youth service.

America's young people – from kindergartners to university students – have the desire, energy and ability to make a real difference in their communities. Service-learning offers a unique opportunity for them to get involved in a tangible way by integrating community service projects with classroom learning. Service-learning engages students in the educational process, using what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. Students not only learn about democracy and citizenship, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

Learn and Serve America supports and encourages service-learning throughout the United States, and enables over one million students to make meaningful contributions to their community while building their academic and civic skills. By engaging our nation's young people in service-learning, Learn and Serve America instills an ethic of lifelong community service.

Learn and Serve America provides direct and indirect support to K-12 schools, community groups and higher education institutions to facilitate service-learning projects by:

- Providing grant support for school-community partnerships and higher education institutions;
- Providing training and technical assistance resources to teachers, administrators, parents, schools and community groups; and
- Collecting and disseminating research, effective practices, curricula, and program models.