

2026

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

YOUTH SERVICE GRANTS

FINAL PROGRAM REPORT

ServeNebraska



347

YOUTH
VOLUNTEERS



835

VOLUNTEER
HOURS



48

ADULT
VOLUNTEERS



1,939

INDIVIDUALS
IMPACTED

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ServeNebraska awarded a total of **\$4,378** in Youth Service Grant funding to support seven youth-led National Volunteer Week service projects across Nebraska. Young people engaged in community improvement, leadership development, civic engagement, mentorship, and service-learning activities through these funded projects. Building on these efforts, organizations mobilized hundreds of youth and adult volunteers, logged substantial volunteer service hours, and created meaningful community impact.

Supporting projects that addressed a wide range of local needs, the 2026 grant cycle included initiatives such as welcoming new citizens, mentoring younger students, enhancing public spaces, strengthening community pride, and promoting kindness and civic responsibility. These efforts not only allowed youth participants to make meaningful contributions to their communities but also enabled them to gain valuable leadership experience.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE



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STATEWIDE IMPACT

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- ✓ Welcomed new citizens
- ✓ Enhanced public spaces
- ✓ Mentored younger students
- ✓ Promoted civic engagement
- ✓ Encouraged kindness and service

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

INCLUSION & BELONGING



LANCASTER COUNTY 4-H TEEN COUNCIL USA WELCOME KITS FOR NEW CITIZENS



COMMUNITY NEED

Newly naturalized citizens often benefit from resources and community support as they begin this new chapter of civic life.



WHAT YOUTH DID

Youth volunteers designed, assembled, and distributed USA Welcome Kits through a partnership with the Asian Community and Cultural Center.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project fostered civic engagement, celebrated inclusion, and helped create a welcoming experience for new citizens in Nebraska.



NE CZECHS OF WILBER WILBUR OUTDOOR THEATRE DEPARTMENT



COMMUNITY NEED

The Wilber Outdoor Theatre serves as an important gathering space but required maintenance and accessibility improvements.



WHAT YOUTH DID

Participants painted structures, completed landscaping projects, improved accessibility features, and prepared the facility for upcoming community events.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project increased the usability, safety, and appearance of a valued community asset used by residents and visitors.



AUBURN HIGH SCHOOL FBLA STUDENT MENTORSHIP PROGRAM



COMMUNITY NEED

Younger students benefit from positive role models and opportunities to build confidence and leadership skills.



WHAT YOUTH DID

FBLA students led team-building activities, goal-setting workshops, academic encouragement sessions, and career-awareness programming for elementary students.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project strengthened peer connections while fostering leadership development for both mentors and mentees.



LAUREL-CONRAD- COLERIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY SIGN BEAUTIFICATION



COMMUNITY NEED

The community sought to improve the appearance of a highly visible welcome sign that represents local pride.



WHAT YOUTH DID

Students landscaped and beautified the welcome sign area alongside community volunteers.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project enhanced community pride and created a more welcoming environment for residents and visitors.



BRUNING-DAVENPORT PUBLIC SCHOOL COMMUNITY PARK REVITALIZATION



COMMUNITY NEED

Public park facilities required repairs and maintenance to remain safe and welcoming for residents.



WHAT YOUTH DID

Students completed repair work and repainting projects throughout the park.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project improved safety, functionality, and appearance while demonstrating youth leadership through community service.



PARTNERSHIP 4 KIDS SERVICE-LEARNING FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT



COMMUNITY NEED

Young people need opportunities to connect classroom learning with meaningful community engagement.



WHAT YOUTH DID

Students across five Omaha middle schools participated in advocacy, research, direct service, and civic engagement activities focused on local community needs.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

Participants gained a deeper understanding of civic responsibility while helping strengthen their communities.



SYRACUSE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CIVICS & KINDNESS SQUAD



COMMUNITY NEED

Incoming kindergarten students and families benefit from support and encouragement during the transition into school.



WHAT YOUTH DID

Participants assembled and distributed Welcome to School Kindness Bags containing school supplies and positive messages.



COMMUNITY IMPACT

The project helped create a positive first impression of school while promoting kindness and service among student leaders.

IMPACT ANALYSIS



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Youth strengthened leadership, communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills through hands-on service experiences.



COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Projects enhanced public spaces, supported local organizations, and addressed community needs across Nebraska.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Participants collaborated with community partners while developing civic responsibility and a commitment to service.



INCLUSION & BELONGING

Service projects fostered kindness, welcomed new community members, and strengthened community connections.

Through hands-on service projects during National Volunteer Week, the 2026 National Volunteer Week Youth Service Grant Program successfully advanced ServeNebraska's mission of promoting volunteerism, civic engagement, and leadership among young people. In turn, youth participants developed practical leadership skills while addressing real community needs.

Furthermore, the projects collectively enhanced public spaces, supported educational success, strengthened community connections, welcomed new citizens, and encouraged a culture of service and kindness throughout Nebraska. The diversity of project types demonstrates the flexibility and effectiveness of youth-led service as a tool for community improvement.

Beyond measurable community outcomes, the program also provided opportunities for youth to develop communication, teamwork, problem-solving, and leadership skills. These experiences help prepare young people for future civic and community engagement while reinforcing the value of volunteer service.

CONCLUSION

The 2026 National Volunteer Week Youth Service Grant Program successfully engaged youth volunteers across Nebraska in meaningful service activities that generated measurable community impact. Through the efforts of 347 youth volunteers and 48 adult volunteers, participants contributed 835 hours of service and positively impacted approximately 1,939 individuals.

The program powerfully demonstrates the important role youth can play in addressing community needs, cultivating leadership skills, and inspiring a lifelong dedication to service. Ongoing investment in youth volunteer programs will further empower Nebraska communities and nurture the next generation of engaged citizens and community leaders.

