

## Service Learning



### PART 1

1. Read through the description of websites below
2. Choose one of the websites to visit and open it up on the Chromebook
3. Take a little time to explore the website

#### **Volcenter.org**

This website helps students find opportunities to volunteer in the South Bay and Long Beach area. The website is organized by current and available programs (opportunities to volunteer), volunteer communities (groups of volunteers that work together on specific program), and donations (ways to donate to the programs). The website is only the start with this center. If you visit the actual location, 1230 Cravens Avenue, Torrance, they have a huge binder with listing and contacts available for service learning opportunities. The Volunteer Center also has the Volunteer Center Youth Coalition, an internal organization of the area run by youth. They meet at the Center weekly.

##### *Upsides*

- *Connects student to actual opportunities to volunteer*
- *Local for many families at our school*

##### *Downsides*

- *Students would need a ride to participate in this type of service learning*
- *Website does not provide all of the information, would be better to visit the center in person*

#### **LAworks.com**

This website helps students find opportunities to volunteer in the LA area. The student is able to filter their search for volunteer opportunities by date, availability and age. Once you choose an option, the website will provide an overview and sign up information. Some of the volunteer opportunities require minors to sign and bring a Volunteer Agreement and Release. When you sign up, an email will be sent with directions.

There is also an option to donate to L.A. works to support the program. Students can organize a fundraiser or drive to raise money to donate.

##### *Upsides*

- *Connects students to actual opportunities to volunteer*
- *Filtered by age to eliminate sorting through opportunities that have an age limit*
- *Easy to navigate and sign up*

##### *Downsides*

- *Does not provide ideas for connections to homeschooling*
- *Students would need a ride to participate in this type of service learning*
- *No opportunities for leadership roles (unless students organize their own fundraiser in order to raise money to donate)*

### **Allforgood.org**

### **Volunteer.unitedwayla.org**

### **Volunteermatch.org**

Students can find opportunities to volunteer near them. These type of websites are sometimes called the “Craigslist for volunteering”. The student is able to filter their search for volunteer opportunities by date and location. Once you choose an option, the website will provide an overview and sign up information.

#### *Upsides*

- *The filters help find volunteering opportunities that are nearby*
- *The services are already organized so students do not need to organize their own projects/campaigns*

#### *Downsides*

- *The list of opportunities are not always removed and so some of them are no longer available. It helps to type in a preferred date(s)*
- *There is no filter for age so you have to pay attention to the age limits provided for each listing*
- *Students would most likely need transportation*
- *Less opportunities for leadership roles*
- *The website does not give ideas for connections to homeschooling (lesson plans, fact sheets, etc)*

### **Generationon.org**

Students can find ideas for “projects”, which are categorized by topics like education, civic engagement, animal rights, etc. It is also further categorized by age and budget. The website guides a student on how to organize a project – or an activity, like a bake sale - to benefit the community. In addition, this website gives resources like lesson plans, videos, fact sheets and other tools to flesh out a service learning project. Among a few other things, students can keep track of the service they have provided and the projects they organized.

In addition, there are “Teen Service Clubs” that the students can start or join. The clubs the students can join have been initiated by other teens. The student can type in their city and find nearby clubs. However, they do not come about often.

#### *Upsides –*

- *Website provides ideas for preparation and follow-up activities to connect service to homeschooling*
- *Because students are organizing the projects, they can choose areas that they are passionate about*
- *Students are given opportunities for leadership roles by organizing a service projects/clubs and having others join in*

#### *Downsides*

- *Depending on the project, spending money can be a necessary part*
- *Joining a pre-existing teen club is rare so students would more likely need to begin one.*

## **Dosomething.org**

This website provides a list of campaigns that students can participate in. The student can create an account to become a member. They find a campaign that they can participate in and follow the directions given to complete the campaign. The campaigns include action that students can take on their own. The student then submits a photo doing the campaign and is entered to win scholarships and prizes.

### *Upsides*

- *Gives a lot of good and different ideas for helping the community*
- *Students can complete these campaigns on their own, at home, with little adult help*
- *A big skill developed with these service activities is initiative*
- *Opportunities for scholarships*

### *Downsides*

- *Website does not provide opportunities to join a pre-existing service. Students do the campaigns on their own.*
- *Depending on the project, spending money can be a necessary part*
- *Does not provide ideas for connections to homeschooling*

**PART 2**

1. Choose one service activity (campaign idea, project idea, fundraiser idea, volunteer opportunity, etc). Ideally choose one that works with your specific student’s schedule. Read the overview.
2. On the list below, check off the skills the students would develop by doing it.

|                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Service Learning activity: |                                       |
|                            | Critical thinking                     |
|                            | Creative thinking                     |
|                            | Empathy                               |
|                            | Problem Solving                       |
|                            | Analysis                              |
|                            | Empowerment to share opinions/voice   |
|                            | Curiosity                             |
|                            | Teaching others                       |
|                            | Collaboration/teamwork                |
|                            | Tolerance                             |
|                            | Work Ethics                           |
|                            | Appropriate work habits               |
|                            | Personal appearance                   |
|                            | Leadership                            |
|                            | Project management/organizing         |
|                            | Civic Knowledge                       |
|                            | Environment                           |
|                            | Public health                         |
|                            | Disabilities                          |
|                            | History                               |
|                            | Economy                               |
|                            | Science                               |
|                            | Cooking/Baking                        |
|                            | Caring for others                     |
|                            | Social Awareness                      |
|                            | Political awareness                   |
|                            | Cultural sensitivity                  |
|                            | Citizenship                           |
|                            | Research                              |
|                            | Writing letters                       |
|                            | Interviewing                          |
|                            | Measuring                             |
|                            | Problem Solving                       |
|                            | Calculating                           |
|                            | Graphing                              |
|                            | Surveying                             |
|                            | Budgeting                             |
|                            | Qualitative and quantitative analysis |
|                            |                                       |
|                            |                                       |
|                            |                                       |
|                            |                                       |

### **PART 3**

1. **Come up with a homeschool activity that precedes or follows the volunteering that builds additional skills.**

**Service Learning Activity:**

**Homeschool Activity:**