What can I do to be sure service-learning is a part of my child’s education?

1. Take copies of www.servicelearning.org/instant_info/parents/index.php and/or service-learning opportunities in your area. Visit the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse “Resources for Parents” page for additional information on service-learning and a list of organization websites you can search for volunteering opportunities.

2. State Education Agencies receive funding from Learn and Serve America to help build networks of teachers and school administrators, parents, and community agency partners who are knowledgeable about service-learning and can work to get programs started. Visit www.learnandserve.gov/about/contact/sea.asp to find contact information for someone in your State Education Agency who can help connect you to this larger community. Support your child in helping the community! Visit www.pta.org for more information.

3. Service-learning allows young people to contribute to solving problems by helping others in their school community, their neighborhood, or around the world. When students apply what they are learning in ways that help others, the results are memorable. Students gain lessons that last a lifetime. While learning, they develop the ability to contribute to a better society and we all benefit.

What now?

- Bring Learning to Life
- Check out the service-learning videos
- Talk to teachers and school administrators
- Take copies of Bring Learning to Life materials to your child’s school to inform teachers and administrators of the benefits of service-learning.
- Get involved in other service-learning opportunities.

Maybe your school is already doing service-learning, or maybe it’s time to get involved! Find out how you might be able to help.

The Complete Guide to Service Learning: Proven, Practical Ways to Engage Students in Civic Responsibility, written by Cathryn Berger Kaye, Copyright © 2004. All rights reserved. Written by Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A. © 2007 Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. What Is Service-Learning and What Does It Look Like? A Guide for Parents Written by Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A. © 2007 Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. What is Service-Learning? A Guide for Parents Provides information on the role of service-learning in education, it describes this effective way of teaching, Service-learning takes place in schools and other organizations across America. Your involvement can make a difference! Simply put, service-learning allows young people to contribute to solving problems by helping others in their school community, their neighborhood, or around the world. When students apply what they are learning in ways that help others, the results are memorable. Students gain lessons that last a lifetime. While learning, they develop the ability to contribute to a better society and we all benefit.

What is Service-Learning? Service-learning is a teaching strategy in which students learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully designed service projects, where they address community needs and link their service to classroom studies. Service-learning connects classroom studies with student learning. Service-learning is an excellent way to foster partnerships with the community. Support your child in helping the community! Visit www.pta.org for more information.

Is service-learning happening at your child’s school? Talk to your child’s teachers and administrators to find out whether service-learning is already taking place at your child’s school.

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Service-learning doesn’t just happen in schools! Involve local youth, community, or faith-based organizations to find out whether service-learning is happening in your community. Visit the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse “Resources for Parents” page for more information on service-learning and a list of organization websites you can search for volunteering opportunities.

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The Busy Family’s Guide to Volunteering: Do good, have fun, make a difference as a family! Written by Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A. © 2007 Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. What Does Service-Learning Look Like? A Guide for Parents Written by Cathryn Berger Kaye, M.A. © 2007 Learn and Serve America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse. What is Service-Learning? A Guide for Parents Provides information on the role of service-learning in education, it describes this effective way of teaching, Service-learning takes place in schools and other organizations across America. Your involvement can make a difference! Simply put, service-learning allows young people to contribute to solving problems by helping others in their school community, their neighborhood, or around the world. When students apply what they are learning in ways that help others, the results are memorable. Students gain lessons that last a lifetime. While learning, they develop the ability to contribute to a better society and we all benefit.

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Middle school students in Pennsylvania learned about the health consequences of poor nutrition and lack of exercise. They wanted to do something to change those habits for themselves and their families. So students conducted health fairs to educate their neighbors and worked with their English teachers and families to create a cookbook with healthy versions of family recipes. Then, because it was difficult to find fresh produce, students worked with their math, social studies, and shop teachers to open a fruit and vegetable stand for the school and community.

High school students in Oklahoma investigated how a local creek became polluted. In social studies, they researched the history of mining that led to the problem. They learned which government agencies help clean toxic waterways. Students created a brochure and present their findings. Find out how you might be able to help.
What does service-learning look like? continued from front page

tested water. In English classes, students interviewed residents. Now, students have authored two books of research, memoirs, and poetry about Tar Creek. These activities helped students to create service-learning projects. One student has authored two books of poetry about the experiences of immigrants. As mentors, partners, and supporters...
With service-learning, students apply knowledge, skills, and talents as they show leadership and contribute to their communities in many ways. Every student can succeed. Classroom participation increases as students recognize that learning is relevant and that they have a role to play in their communities.

How is service-learning different from community service or volunteer work?

Service-learning differs from community service or volunteer work because the education of students and young people is always at the core. Students are actively participating in the process of understanding, integrating, and applying knowledge from various subjects as they work to improve their communities. The question “Why am I learning this?” disappears as they see what they have learned in action.

Research shows that service-learning positively affects youth in three general areas: academic engagement and achievement, civic attitudes and behaviors, and social and personal skills. To read more about this research, information is provided by Learn and Serve America at this website: www.learnandserve.gov/pdf/07_0224_issuebrief_servicelearning.pdf.

Four stages of service-learning

Preparation: Students gather new information or data, read, research, interview, and visit places, all leading to a better understanding of real-world issues.

Action: Students develop and implement a plan of action, transforming their ideas into practical ways to contribute to the common good.

Reflection: Students consider how their actions made an impact on themselves and others, and ways to improve as they continue to learn and serve.

Demonstration: Students show off what they have learned and contributed, they may write articles, make presentations, or create a video.
Service-learning can be defined as a teaching method that includes service. With service-learning, students:
- connect classroom content, real-world community needs, and service-learning experiences;
- become active learners who contribute ideas, make decisions, and solve problems;
- discover benefits for everyone involved, get to work with community partners and develop as active members of society.

Four stages of service-learning
Preparation
- Students receive new information or they study, research, interview, and view places, all leading to a better understanding of real-world context.
Action
- Students develop and implement a plan of action, transforming their ideas into practical ways to contribute to the common good.
Reflection
- Students consider how their experiences, students may:
  - make a positive contribution to their community;
  - learn about community resources for themselves and their families;
  - develop the ability to work well with others;
  - improve in many academic areas;
  - develop responsibility, make decisions, and solve problems;
  - replace stereotypes with respect for others;
  - experience positive relationships with peers and community members;
  - express themselves positively with peers and community members;
  - participate in students’ progress of graduation and improved high school performance and academic engagement.
  - Students in service-learning had a higher score in reading, math, science, and history (Bara, A., and Mo, M. 2007).
  - Students in service-learning had a higher score in writing, and in school adjustment and aspiration set of job and career related skills and attributes than students who did not participate (Yamauchi, et.al. 2006).
  - Students in service-learning, as mentors, partners, and supporters...

Research shows that service-learning positively affects youth in these general areas: academic engagement and achievement, civic attitudes and behavior, and social and personal skills. To read more about this research, information is provided by Learn and Serve America at this website: issuebrief_service-learning.pdf.

As educator
John Dewey said, “Education is not preparation for life. It is life itself.”

As parent
Parent encouragement of their child’s involvement in service-learning can be helpful. Have conversations with your child about community issues. Read books and newspaper articles on the topics with your child for shared experiences and to learn together.

Parent participation in non-school settings
Whenever youth gather, service-learning is a way to engage in meaningful activities that benefit everyone. A service-learning approach may include: book clubs, events, surveys of community needs, and projects that allow youth to transform ideas into action. Discuss with program staff ways parents can be helpful throughout the process.

As policy maker
“Service-learning is a natural extension of the civic mission of schools—giving young people a background for better education while giving our society a better citizen. It is a vehicle, a bridge between the classroom and the community that brings parents and energy to both.”

Elizabeth Bumsted
Western New York Apprenticeship

“We know that service-learning benefits young people in a variety of ways. As individuals, service-learning improves self-esteem and self-confidence, and reduces alienation and risk-taking behaviors. As citizens, service-learning grows young people into informed and active members of society. As teachers, service-learning builds skillful practitioners. As parents, service-learning builds effective parents….”

Dr. William Reinholtz
Former President of CEOs Will. Kellogg Foundation

“Schools and college campuses are reinforcing their role in the civic education, including through a great idea called service-learning—set apart that requires academic study with real-world problem-solving through community service. We can join in to promote, engage, and support.”

Angus King
Former Maine Governor

For more information, contact Larsen and Sorensen America’s National Service-Learning Clearinghouse www.servicelearning.org.
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3. Consider working with the PTA—the parent, teacher, student association—or another parent/teacher organization to develop a plan for parents to be of support to teachers. The PTA recognizes that collaboration with the community strengthens schools, families, and student learning. Service-learning is an excellent way to increase the involvement of parents in their child’s education.

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Books can help you learn more, see examples of service-learning projects, and promote service-learning in the community.
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Bring Learning to Life
What Is Service-Learning?
A Guide for Parents

What is Service-Learning?

- Service-learning is a course of study that enables young people to learn through active participation in meaningful service to the community. Service-learning involves the reflection of students on what they are learning as they engage in service and allows young people to contribute to solving problems by helping others in their school, community, faith-based, or around the world. When students apply what they are learning in ways that help others, the results are memorable. Students gain a greater sense of accomplishment.

While learning, they develop the ability to contribute to a better community and see all benefit of their involvement.

What does service-learning look like? Here are a few examples.

Elementary children in Florida studied the consequences of natural disasters through books and newspaper articles and by interviewing city officials. They determined that families need a place to gather their important papers in case of evacuation. So the children designed a large envelope with a checklist for this purpose. They added tips about securing personal and other objects to make a difficult situation easier. Students distributed the envelopes to families through school and community organizations.

Middle school students in Pennsylvania learned about the health consequences of poor nutrition and lack of exercise. They wanted to do something to change those habits for themselves and their families. So students conducted health fairs to educate their neighbors and worked with their English teachers and families to create a cookbook with healthy versions of family recipes. Then, because it was difficult to find fresh produce, students worked with their math, social studies, and shop teachers to open a fruit and vegetable stand for the school and community.

High school students in Oklahoma investigated how a local creek became polluted. In social studies, they researched the history of zoning that led to the problem. They learned while the government agencies help clean toxic waterways. Scientists, students and shop teachers to open a fruit and vegetable stand for the school and community.

Learn and Serve America engages more than one million young people from kindergarten through college through school and community organizations. Your involvement can make a difference! Simply put, service-learning allows young people to contribute to solving problems by helping others in their school, community, faith-based or around the world.

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Animal rescue

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Visit www.servicelearning.org or call 1-800-245-7270, ext. 130 to order free copies of Bring Learning to Life DVDs, posters, and the teachers’ getting started guide Service-Learning in Action to share with your school. Across America, service-learning is helping students perform better in school while improving their communities through service: by connecting classroom lessons with community service projects, service-learning engages students in the community.

Support your child in helping the community! Visit www.pta.org for more information.

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Yes! What now?

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What Is Service-Learning?

A Guide for Parents

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带来的生命

BRING LEARNING TO LIFE

What Is Service-Learning?

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