

Sample Service Learning/Civic Engagement Proposal

Purpose

The goal of this proposal is to initiate hands on projects that facilitate honest and open discussion of topics that are important to our community, state and nation and in so doing show how youth in our community can take actions that impact their school, community, region, and country.

According to a 2016 survey led by Annenberg Public Policy Center, 1 in 4 are unable to name the three branches of government. It is not only knowledge about how the government works that is lacking— confidence in our leadership is also extremely low. According to the Pew Research Center, which tracks public trust in government, as of March 2019, only an unnerving 17 percent trust the government in Washington to do the right thing. We also see this lack of engagement in civic behaviors, with Americans’ reduced participation in community organizations and lackluster participation in elections, especially among young voters. (Brookings, 2020). Importantly, Civic Engagement is initially developed in local communities and the goal of our project is to engage youth in our community in adopting a service-learning project that, through their active involvement, helps our youth understand the vital role that they play in our community.

The activities to be piloted were framed using the 2019 Nebraska State Social Studies Standards and focus on Civics for each of these grade level bands: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. Lessons and activities address one or more of these four themes: Civic Fabric, Civic Structures, Social Connectedness, and Political Action.

**Please refer to Community Connections and Resources sections below for specific project ideas and programming details—once you decide on a specific project for your program, outline this project in your proposal.*

Budget Justification

- Direct Personnel
 - Wages: 3 H.S. / College staff x \$10/20hr/week x 8 weeks = \$4,800
 - Guide student involvement in unit
 - Maintain/Assess progress of unit(s)
- Equipment - Non-consumable
 - \$5,000 for materials
 - List Items separately
- Supplies
 - \$4,000 for educational project materials (consumable)
 - List Items separately
- Training and Outreach
 - \$1,200 for community engagement events
- Summary:
 - \$4,800 for 3 student leaders for 16 weeks
 - \$5,000 for Civic materials and tools
 - \$4,000 for Civic projects and activities
 - \$1,200 for community engagement events
- Total = \$15,000

Sample Budget

Budget Item	Price for each	Sample total	Notes/URL
Staffing		4800	3 HS/CS student leaders
Events		1200	Community engagement
Supplies-nonconsumable		5000	
LIST ALL THESE SUPPLIES	LIST HERE		
Supplies--consumable		4000	
LIST ALL THESE SUPPLIES	LIST HERE		
Total		15,000	

Community Connections

- Levels of Government
 - Reach out to various levels of government in your community.
 - City, including School Board and the Mayor’s office
 - County
 - State
 - Federal
 - Use this as a guide <https://sites.google.com/a/coalcityschools.org/govt-types/levels-of-govt>
 - As the unit comes to a close, make sure to invite these government officials so that they can learn what your students discovered here.
- Service-Learning Guidebooks from National Youth Leadership Council, NYLC
 - Download grade-band guides for free here: <https://www.nylc.org/store/ListProducts.aspx?catid=732053&ftr=ENGAGE>
 - Samples of existing projects that your students can join - <https://infohub.nyced.org/in-our-schools/programs/experiential-learning/service-in-schools/service-learning-opportunities-and-resources>.
 - Nebraska Game & Parks. <http://outdoornebraska.gov/servicelearning/>

Resources

- Nebraska State Social Studies 2019 Civics Standards - State Civics K-12 Standards are shared in the following document
<https://cdn.education.ne.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Nebraska-Social-Studies-Standards-Final-11-2019.pdf>
- iCivics - In 2009, Justice O’Connor founded iCivics with the goal of transforming civic education for every student in America with innovative, truly engaging games and resources. Grades 6-12 preferred <https://www.icivics.org/>

Attachment D

- iCivics for Younger Learners ages 7-10, 4 games, 1 coloring book <https://www.icivics.org/young-learners>
- Education Commission of the States - - "The necessary elements of effective civic education include classroom instruction in civics & government, history, economics, law and geography; service learning linked to classroom learning; experiential learning; learning through participation in models and simulations of democratic processes; guided classroom discussion of current issues and events, and meaningful participation in school governance." https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Six-proven-practices-update_r2.pdf
- PBS – Election Collection - In this collection there are *Videos (63)*, *Documents (17)*, *Lesson Plans (6)*, *Media Gallery Items (8)*, *Interactives (5)*, *Interactive Lessons (1)*, *Webpages (2)* for *Grades 4-13+* , *Resources in Spanish (2)* <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/election-collection/>
- PBS Crash Course Government and Politics: grades 9-12 very engaging, video and live, many videos. <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/crash-course-government-and-politics/>
- PBS Crash Course US History engaging live and animated videos, grades 9-12 <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/crash-course-us-history/> very
- PBS - Arthur All About Community - Prek- Grade 4
 - Appreciating and Understanding Diversity
 - The Arts: Dance, Art, Music, and Play
 - Civics: Making a Difference
 - Social Emotional Skills<https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/arthur-community/>
- Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow – AQuESTT This is an accountability system that integrates components of accountability, assessment, accreditation, career education, and data into a system of school improvement and support. For schools who use this system, these lessons can help track 5/6 AQuESTT domains. Evidence Based Assessment <https://aquestt.com/>
- Volunteer Nebraska guide to selecting and implementing volunteer work <http://www.volunteernebraska.org/>
- Deliberating in a Democracy (Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago): civic action, mock trials, California based internships <https://crfcap.org/>
- Democracy in Action (Mikva Challenge): youth voice, action civics <http://www.mikvachallenge.org>
- Facing History and Ourselves: anti-racism <http://www.facinghistory.org>
- Earth Force: environmental activism <http://www.earthforce.org>
- Generation Citizen: action civics, issue-oriented activities <http://generationcitizen.org>
- KIDS Consortium: Harkins Consulting LLC, for pay trainings and materials for service learning <http://www.kidsconsortium.org>
- 4H Youth Developmental Organization: free activities, health, civic engagement, STEM, etc. <http://www.4-h.org>
- Civil Dialogues: conversations on various topics with specific rules on norms for discussion <https://civildialogues.org/>

- Future Business Leaders of America–Phi Beta Lambda: middle and high school future businesspeople <http://www.fbla-pbl.org>
- Future Educators Association: advice for aspiring teachers, includes educational games, etc. <http://futureeducators.org>
- Key Club International: student led high school service organization <http://www.keyclub.org/home.aspx>
- Equity in Education White Paper: challenges of reaching students of color with civics education <https://spark.adobe.com/page/npr1t53giePgH/>
- Gilder Lehrman American History: excellent American history primary documents gilderlehrman.org
- Civics 101: grades 4-8 teaching NE specific governmental issues <https://net.pbslearningmedia.org/collection/civics-101/>
- George Washington U.: a site where people can join conversations about civic life and health CivilDialogues.org
- NE Bar Foundation has databases for Civics education <https://www.nebarfnd.org/civics-education/civics-education-overview>
- State of America (JSA) and Junior Statesmen Foundation (JSF): high school, government, politics, advocacy <https://www.jsa.org/>
- Mr. Donn’s Site for Kids and Teachers: history, government, mock trials – games, videos, information <https://www.mrdonn.org/>
- Model UN <http://www.nmun.org>
- We the People: simulated Congressional hearings for ES and HS <http://new.civiced.org/programs/wtp>
- Scientific American: Citizen Science projects that students can be a part of <https://www.scientificamerican.com/citizen-science/>
- YouTube: Liberty’s Kids - 47 animated 20-25 min films on the founding of America <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHealWvdbER3Ic90BzhPsH2aJ5KI3UtmM>
- YouTube: Kids’ Academy: President of the United States https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VR-5Pq_26YI
- Scholastic: “So You Want to be the President” Kid Reporter video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gcc0KpXtl5c>