

summer activity guide

Passion & Purpose

ages
13-15



About the Summer Activity Guides

Summers are for fun and engaged learning. In 2020 as the impact of the pandemic is widely felt, summer opportunities will be different for young people, families, and afterschool and summer program staff. The Summer Activity Guides were developed to help engage youth with supportive adults in a range of places.

The activities and resources in the Summer Activity Guides are intentionally designed to support youth-serving summer programs in driving consistent engagement and providing ongoing opportunities for youth skill-building and emotional well-being. In addition to the activities for youth, supplemental materials will be available to support professional development and enhance family engagement.

The Guides include 150 original activities and challenges organized by four different age groups (5-9) (10-12) (13-15) (16-18). The activities are adaptable for in-person and virtual instruction, or a hybrid of both, as well as sent as take-home packets.

All activities should be safely executed and aligned with state and local health guidelines.



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Telling My Story

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

In this art activity, teens will take pictures in and around their community to highlight different strengths and/or problems they see. As part of the 'Passion & Purpose' unit, this activity is designed to allow teens to express themselves and get engaged in their communities. This activity supports the development of creativity, social-awareness, perspective-taking, reflection, and problem-solving.

SUPPLIES

- Camera or phone/tablet with a camera
- Computer and/or printer
- Paper
- Pen/pencil

STEPS

- The goal of this project is to find out what you would like changed in your community to make it a better place.
- Choose an issue in your community to focus on – health, the environment, social justice, etc.
- Take pictures around your community that highlight both the strengths and challenges around your chosen issue.
- When taking pictures remember:
 - No trespassing, respect privacy, and get permission (if taking pictures of people)
- Once you are done taking pictures, select 3-4 photographs that you think really capture the strengths and/or challenges in your community.
- For each photograph, answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper:
 - What do you see in this picture?
 - What is really happening in this picture?
 - How does this relate to your life?
 - Why does this strength or problem exist?
 - What can you do about this?
- Once you have answered these questions for each of your photos, put the photos and your answers to the questions into a PowerPoint or booklet to make them easy to share with peers.

ADAPTATIONS

- If teens do not have access to a camera, they can do this activity by walking around their community and writing down what they observe related to their chosen issue.

CREDITS

- Activity inspiration from photovoice.org



EXTENSIONS

- Share your photos and reflections with your friends or family members. What discussions do your photos spark? What can you all do together to positively impact your community?
- In addition to taking pictures, interview people from your community about the issues you notice. What are their insights?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What did you learn about yourself and your community from this activity?
- What issue did you choose to focus on for your photos? Why?
- What is something you love about your community? Why?
- How do others view your community? Are their assumptions accurate? What can you do to change the way people view your community?
- Think about other communities you know and visit. What are similarities and differences to your community?

Kindness Counts

CHALLENGE DESCRIPTION

In this service-learning challenge, teens will complete various acts of kindness in their homes or communities. As part of the 'Passion & Purpose' unit, this challenge is designed to help teens feel empowered to create change in their community by building on the issues they highlighted in the "Telling My Story" activity. This challenge supports the development of empathy, respect for others, social awareness, and creativity.

SUPPLIES

- Items will vary based on what activities teens decide to do for their acts of kindness.

STEPS

- We can connect people and improve our communities through simple, kind gestures.
- Recall the issue(s) that you uncovered in the "Telling My Story" activity. Try to come up with small acts of kindness that you can do in and around your community to address these issues.
- For example, if your issue was the environment, your acts of kindness could be planting a tree in your neighborhood, picking up garbage on the side of the road, reducing the amount of plastic your family uses, or starting a community garden.
 - For more idea inspiration visit www.randomactsofkindness.org/kindness-ideas
- Sticking to your issue, create a list of at least 5 different acts of kindness you can do in your home or community to address this problem.
 - Keep your resources in mind – if necessary, make your ideas low-budget.
- Over the next 2-3 weeks, aim to implement all 5 of these acts of kindness from your list in your home or community.
 - If your activities require ongoing maintenance (like a community garden), make sure you have a plan to follow up.
 - Enlist the help of others when needed.



ADAPTATIONS

- If facilitating in-person, teens can work in large or small groups to come up with acts of kindness and create a plan to implement these acts together.
- If facilitating virtually, make sure teens have a time to come together to share their acts of kindness with their peers.

EXTENSIONS

- Enlist your friends or family members to do these acts of kindness with you.
- Take a picture of each of your 5 acts of kindness. Use these pictures as a photo journal, post them on social media, or share them with friends and family to inspire everyone to be more kind!
- Enjoying these acts of kindness? Extend this challenge by coming up with even more ideas for acts to do around your community over the next several weeks.

CREDITS

- Activity inspiration from randomactsofkindness.org; image from pressfoto.com

What's My Purpose?

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

In this social-emotional learning (SEL) activity, teens will complete a worksheet to help them discover their purpose in life. As part of the 'Passion & Purpose' unit, this activity builds on the 'Telling My Story' activity and is designed to help teens reflect upon their interests, discover their strengths, and understand how their passions can influence their plans for the future. This activity supports the development of self-awareness, goal setting, and reflection.

SUPPLIES

- 'What's My Purpose?' worksheet
- Pen/pencil

STEPS

- Discovering your strengths and passions can help you form a sense of identity, plan for the future, and understand your purpose in life.
- Make sure you have your photos and reflections from the 'Telling My Story' activity available.
 - Remind yourself of the community need you identified in that activity (the environment, health, etc.)
- Using the attached 'What's My Purpose?' worksheet, answer the first 10 questions fully.
- After you have answered the first 10 questions, complete the worksheet by reviewing your answers to those questions to help you with the last page of the worksheet.
 - "What are my strengths/skills?"
 - "What are my passions/interests?"
 - "What is a need in my community?"
- Answering these final questions will lead you to discovering your purpose.
- It's okay to still be unsure of your passions or purpose by the end of this activity.

ADAPTATIONS

- If facilitating virtually or in-person, create time for teens to share their passions, strengths, and purpose with their peers. Facilitate discussion between those with similar and/or different responses.
- If facilitating digitally or using take-home packets, encourage teens to share with their friends or family.

CREDITS

- Image from katemangostar



EXTENSIONS

- Compare your strengths, passions, and purpose results from this worksheet to your results from the 'My Personality' activity in Unit 1. What similarities are there? What differences? How can your personality type help you achieve your purpose?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What did you learn about yourself from this activity?
- Were you surprised by anything you learned from this activity?
- How can you use your strengths and passions to improve your community?
- What pressure do you feel to discover your passions and purpose?
- How can you manage your own expectations, and the expectations of others, when it comes to finding your purpose?

Worksheet: What's My Purpose?

Answer the following questions to identify your strengths and passions

1. I lose track of time when I am...

2. If I knew I couldn't fail, I would...

3. I am great at...

4. Things that come naturally or easy to me are...

5. I feel good about myself when I am...

Worksheet: What's My Purpose?

6. Topics I enjoy learning about include...

7. My favorite things to do in my free time are...

8. If I could have any job or career it would be...

9. I would regret not being able to do these things during my lifetime...

10. People who inspire me are...

Worksheet: What's My Purpose?

- Based on my responses to the 10 questions above, what are my top 3 strengths and/or skills?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

- Based on my responses to the 10 questions above, what am I passionate about?

- Based on the "Telling My Story" activity, what is a need in my community?

- Use the Venn Diagram below. Taking your strengths, passions, and a need in your community into account, what do you think your purpose is?



My Voice Matters

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

In this service-learning activity, teens will research an issue that they are passionate about and develop a plan to address that issue. As part of the 'Passion & Purpose' unit, this activity builds on the 'What's My Purpose?' activity and is designed to help teens understand the causes of various societal issues and empower them to create change in their communities. This activity supports the development of problem-solving skills and ethical responsibility.

SUPPLIES

- 'Service-learning Plan' worksheet
- Pen/pencil
- Access to the internet

STEPS

- Refer to your 'What's My Purpose?' worksheet from the 'What's My Purpose?' activity.
- From that worksheet, identify which issue you said you are passionate about.
 - This issue could be the environment, health, social justice, education, etc.
- For this activity, you will research that issue further. You can use the internet for your research, or talk to people who are experts on your chosen issue.
- Answer the first 7 questions on the attached 'Service-learning Plan' worksheet.
- Once you have answered the 7 questions, go to the next page of the worksheet and develop the plan for your chosen service-learning project based on your research.
 - Your project could be a fundraiser, supply drive, awareness building campaign, volunteering with another organization, or anything else of your choosing.
- After you have completed the entire worksheet, share what you learned about your issue and the plan for your service-learning project with your peers.

ADAPTATIONS

- If teens are having a hard time coming up with a project idea, allow them to work with a peer.
- If facilitating in-person, teens can do a group service-learning project. Ensure all teens have a say in the chosen topic, research, and planning.

CREDITS

- Image from freepik.com



EXTENSIONS

- In the next activity in this unit you will be putting your service-learning project into action!
- Enlist your friends and family to assist with your service-learning project. They could serve as volunteers, help spread the word, secure supplies, etc.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What did you learn about your chosen issue?
- Were you surprised by anything you learned about your issue?
- Have you ever led or participated in a service-learning project before? How was that experience?
- How do you feel about leading a service-learning project?
- How can you use your strengths to make sure your service-learning project is successful?

Worksheet: Service-learning Plan

Answer the following questions about your selected issue

1. What is the issue you will be researching?

2. What is the history of this issue?

3. How does this issue impact you or your community specifically?

4. What will it take to solve this issue?

Worksheet: Service-learning Plan

5. What is already being done to address this issue, if anything?

6. What reputable organizations are doing work to address this issue?

7. What can you do to address this issue in your community? What can you do to address this issue on a national level?

Worksheet: Service-learning Plan

Complete the following worksheet to create a plan for your service-learning project

What issue is your service-learning project going to address?

What is the goal of your service-learning project? What do you hope to achieve?

Provide an overview of your service-learning project:

How will you know if your service-learning project has been successful?

What is the date and time that your project will take place? Will it be an ongoing project?

What materials, supplies, or equipment will you need for your project? Where will you get those items?

Who do you need permission or approval from to implement this project?

What local or national organizations can you partner with to help with your project?

How will you advertise your project?

How will you find volunteers for your project, if needed?

I Can Make a Difference

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

In this service-learning activity, teens put their service-learning project into action. As part of the 'Passion & Purpose' unit, this activity builds on the 'My Voice Matters' activity and is designed to provide teens with a hands-on learning experience and a chance to get engaged in their community. This activity supports the development of perspective-taking, respect for others, social engagement, and reflection.

SUPPLIES

- 'Service-learning Plan' worksheet from the 'My Voice Matters' activity
- Any materials needed for your service-learning project

STEPS

- Make sure you have your completed 'Service-learning Plan' worksheet from the 'My Voice Matters' activity.
- Reference the last page of the worksheet where you developed the plan for your service-learning project.
- Make sure all plans you laid out in your 'Service-learning Plan' worksheet are in place for your project and you have any necessary supplies.
- Time to do your service-learning project!
 - Your project may be a one-time event or an ongoing project.
- Be sure to document your service-learning project through pictures or video so you can share your experience with others.
 - If you are volunteering with an organization, they may not allow pictures or videos. Make sure to check their policies.
- Share your service-learning experience with your peers.

ADAPTATIONS

- If teens are unable to physically volunteer somewhere, they can still make a difference through various online methods such as hosting an online fundraiser, starting an online petition, or starting an awareness-building campaign on social media.

CREDITS

- Image from freepik.com



EXTENSIONS

- Celebrate your hard work! If there were other volunteers at your project, celebrate with them as well.
- Create a video or PowerPoint presentation to summarize your service-learning project. You can use this to share with others and encourage them to volunteer in the future.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

- What was it like to volunteer for a cause that is important to you?
- Did anything about your service-learning experience surprise you?
- What did you learn anything about yourself through this experience?
- Do you think your service-learning project was a success? Why or why not?
- How can you continue working to address your selected issue?
- How will you let others know about your selected issue? How can you engage others in this cause?

The 50 State Afterschool Network



The Summer Activity Guide has been developed for the 50 State Afterschool Network with leadership from the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network to engage and support children and youth nationwide.

In each state, the afterschool network is broadening opportunities for youth. Seeking equitable outcomes for underserved children to succeed in school and future jobs, a statewide afterschool network brings together cross-sector leaders with a common vision and coordinated strategy to advance quality afterschool and summer learning programs

Alabama Afterschool Community Network
Alaska Afterschool Network
Arizona Center for Afterschool Excellence
Arkansas Out of School Network
California AfterSchool Network
Colorado Afterschool Partnership
Connecticut After School Network
Delaware Afterschool Network
Florida Afterschool Network
Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network
Hawai'i Afterschool Alliance
Idaho Afterschool Network
Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACT Now) Coalition (IL)
Indiana Afterschool Network
Iowa Afterschool Alliance
Kansas Enrichment Network
Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance
Louisiana Center for Afterschool Learning
Maine Afterschool Network
Maryland Out of School Time Network
Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership
Michigan After-School Partnership
Ignite Afterschool (MN)
Missouri AfterSchool Network
Mississippi Statewide Afterschool Network
Montana Afterschool Alliance
Beyond School Bells (NE)

Nevada Afterschool Network
New Hampshire Afterschool Network
New Jersey School- Age Care Coalition
NMOST (New Mexico Out of School Time) Network
New York State Network for Youth Success
North Carolina Center for Afterschool Programs
North Dakota Afterschool Network
Ohio Afterschool Network
Oklahoma Partnership for Expanded Learning Opportunities
OregonASK
Pennsylvania Statewide Afterschool/Youth Development Network
Rhode Island Afterschool Network
South Carolina Afterschool Alliance
South Dakota Afterschool Network
Tennessee Afterschool Network
Texas Partnership for Out of School Time
Utah Afterschool Network
Vermont Afterschool, Inc.
Virginia Partnership for Out-of-School Time
Washington Expanded Learning Opportunities Network
West Virginia Statewide Afterschool Network
Wisconsin Afterschool Network
Wyoming Afterschool Alliance