

CONNECT WITH A CAUSE OR PASSION, THEN RALLY YOUR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEER WITH PURPOSE.

# WE VOLUNTEER NOW



AN INITIATIVE OF



MADE POSSIBLE BY



The Allstate Foundation believes that when young people are empowered with the knowledge, skills and resources to be leaders, they can change our world for the better and create healthier, stronger and safer communities. That's why The Allstate Foundation has teamed up with WE Day and WE Schools—to bring you service-learning curriculum and WE Volunteer Now.

# IF YOU WANT TO PLAN AN EPIC GOOD DEED, YOU NEED A TEAM.

WE VOLUNTEER NOW

We can bust big issues when we all pull together and take action. That's what volunteering is all about: coming together to take action in our communities.



## WE DAY APP CHALLENGE VOLUNTEER POWER HOUR

Change-makers! Are you up for a high-speed volunteer challenge? WE dare you to give 1 hour of your time today to a local action. Make sure to track your hour on the WE Day app, whether it be helping out your teacher after school or sorting books at your local library. Ready to go? You have 60 minutes...starting...NOW!

# Ways to Take Action

Here are some ideas for boosting your impact through WE Volunteer Now:

- ▶ Organize a week of activities at a local seniors' center to engage with and learn from the elders in the community.
- ▶ Spend a week raising awareness about safe driving in your neighborhood.

- ▶ Organize a peace march in your community along with an awareness week to take a stand for safer streets and homes.

Students at Taft High School are volunteering their time as community peacemakers. They have been working on establishing a relationship between youth and the police department in their city. Read their story at [WE.org/wevolunteernow](http://WE.org/wevolunteernow).



## WE VOLUNTEER NOW GRANT

For the 2016-2017 school year, you can apply to receive a WE Volunteer Now grant! With the support of The Allstate Foundation, WE Day will award 500 grants of \$250 to schools and youth-serving organizations that participate in WE Volunteer Now. Connect with your WE Schools Coordinator or visit [WE.org/wevolunteernow](http://WE.org/wevolunteernow) for more information.

## CAMPAIGN RESOURCES

- ▶ Action-planning guide (*Student Yearbook*, p. 62)
- ▶ Educator-led Exploring Issues activity (*Educator's Guide*, p. 30) and Community Mapping activity (*Student Yearbook*, p. 10, and *Educator's Guide*, p. 32) for learning more about local issues to take action on
- ▶ Educator-led lesson activities for going deeper into WE Volunteer Now ([WE.org/weschools/educator-resources](http://WE.org/weschools/educator-resources))
- ▶ WE Volunteer Now campaign poster for spreading the word (see campaign posters)
- ▶ WE Volunteer Now M.V.P. cards for getting to know your team (*Student Yearbook*, p. 67)
- ▶ WE Volunteer Now lesson package, available online at [WE.org/weschools/educator-resources](http://WE.org/weschools/educator-resources)

### THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO MAKE IT YOUR OWN.

Plan your own campaign from start to finish with the WE Volunteer Now action-planning activity on page 62 of the Student Yearbook.





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WHO VOLUNTEER

ARE MORE LIKELY TO

DO WELL IN SCHOOL,

GRADUATE

AND VOTE



LEARN HOW TO TAKE ACTION AT [WE.ORG/WEVOLUNTEERNOW](https://we.org/wevolunteernow)

#WEVOLUNTEERNOW

# WE VOLUNTEER NOW

RALLY YOUR COMMUNITY AND PLAN SOME EPIC DO-GOOD ACTIONS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL VOLUNTEER ACTIONS BY USING THE WE VOLUNTEER NOW CAMPAIGN.

CAMPAIGN SKILLS:



## Checklist

Sign up for the campaign at [WE.org/wevolunteernow](http://WE.org/wevolunteernow).

Who do you need to ask for permission to do this campaign? \_\_\_\_\_  Permission received!

## Setting Your Goal

▶ How many different activities do you want to plan during the week? (You can plan one big event or multiple smaller events.)

\_\_\_\_\_

▶ How many people would you like to get involved in volunteer actions? \_\_\_\_\_

▶ How many hours would you like each person to volunteer on average? \_\_\_\_\_

# Investigate and Learn

With your teacher, go through the local issues portions of the Exploring Issues activity (**Educator's Guide, p. 30**) to learn about how different issues affect communities across the United States. During the group discussion at the end of the activity, make note of questions or comments your group has about each issue.

The environment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hunger: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Homelessness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Local poverty: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Youth violence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Using the Community Mapping activity (**p. 10 and Educator's Guide, p. 32**), ask your teacher to lead a group walk through your community and hold a discussion about which issues your group members are passionate about. When the group is done, write down the local issues that drew the most interest.

\_\_\_\_\_

Based on the number of activities you have decided to plan, vote as a group on which issues to take action on. Above, circle the issues the group will be taking action on.

**REFLECTION TIME:** As a group, discuss the following questions. Make sure each group member gets a chance to speak and that the recorder takes notes on common themes in the answers.

- How are the issues your group has been learning about related to each other?
- How does taking action on one issue make an impact on other issues?
- How can this knowledge be used in the campaign?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Action Plan



Get to know the skills and talents on your team by having each group member fill out a WE Volunteer Now M.V.P. Card. Photocopy the card template provided on **page 67** or download a printable PDF from [WE.org/wevolunteernow](http://WE.org/wevolunteernow) and make some extras for when your community members get involved.

When the group has filled out their cards, pin them up on a bulletin board to display the full roster of talents on your team. Then discuss the following.

- What skills does the team have?
- How could these skills be used to plan an action on the issues our group has chosen (e.g., using leadership or public speaking skills to rally our community or using artistic skills to design awareness-raising posters)?
- What kind of volunteer actions would these skills be best suited to?
- How can we connect our chosen issue or passion to our volunteering?
- What other kinds of skills or roles would our group need to complete these actions?

For each of the issues you plan to take action on, write down the kind of action you will take and what roles and responsibilities (e.g., promoting volunteer action, communicating with any local organizations you might be volunteering for) will be involved in planning the volunteer action.

Write down the names of the people whose talents match these roles on each line. If a role does not have a match, highlight it. If your group is focusing on a single volunteer action, leave the rest blank. Make sure you're also rallying the rest of your school to join in!

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_ Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Roles and responsibilities:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_ Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Roles and responsibilities:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Issue: \_\_\_\_\_ Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Roles and responsibilities:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**REFLECTION TIME:** What kind of different skills and talents does it take to successfully plan and carry out a volunteer action? How does working as a team allow you to plan more effective actions?

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# Take Action



Next you'll want to get your school and community in on the action. Check off ways to reach out to your community for extra hands, and don't forget to highlight special roles your team needs to fill.

<input type="checkbox"/> School announcements	<input type="checkbox"/> Put up campaign posters (see poster section of kit) or design posters in your community	<input type="checkbox"/> Speak about volunteer actions at community events
<input type="checkbox"/> School newsletters	<input type="checkbox"/> Social media	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose your own: _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Choose your own: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose your own: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose your own: _____ _____

Make sure that everyone's on the same page regarding the details of when and where the volunteer action is taking place, plus anything they need to prepare. Review the details with all volunteers before you meet.

Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/time: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring/prepare: \_\_\_\_\_

Other reminders: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/time: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring/prepare: \_\_\_\_\_

Other reminders: \_\_\_\_\_

Action: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Date/time: \_\_\_\_\_

Please bring/prepare: \_\_\_\_\_

Other reminders: \_\_\_\_\_

**REFLECTION TIME:** Why is community participation important for completing a successful volunteer action?  
What do you think your group's volunteer action would be like if your school or community wasn't involved? Or if more of the community was involved?

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# Report and Celebrate



Make M.V.P. cards (p. 67) for the members of your school or community who come out to join your volunteer efforts. Make sure to take the time to thank each person for their contribution and let them know how valuable they are to your team.

When the campaign is over, sit down as a group and record the impacts you've made.

Share your success with WE Volunteer Now by posting photos to social media using [#wevolunteernow](#).

- ▶ How many different activities did you plan? \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ How many people were involved in your volunteer actions? \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ How many hours did each person volunteer on average? \_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Has your teacher contacted your WE Schools Coordinator about filling out an Impact Report?  Yes /  No

**REFLECTION TIME:** As a group, discuss the following questions. Make sure each group member gets a chance to speak and that the recorder takes notes on common themes in the answers.

- How did your group do with its goals? Did you run into any challenges?
- Is there anything you would do differently next time?
- Besides the volunteer hours you put in, what impacts did you make together (e.g., involving your school, spreading awareness, developing skills)?
- What barriers do you think hold people back from volunteering more regularly in their community?
- How can we encourage more people to volunteer beyond this campaign?

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