

# Local ▶ Youth Empowerment



Organize a volunteer activity with your peers.

Elementary, Middle, High School, Community Groups

**SKILLS:**  LEADERSHIP SKILLS  CRITICAL THINKING  REFLECTION

**CURRICULUM:** Volunteerism: A Growing Movement

**IMPACT:** Local

AN INITIATIVE OF



MADE POSSIBLE BY



# Youth Empowerment + Volunteering = CHANGE

Find your passion for change and rally your peers to help you take action on a cause in your community. By empowering yourself and the ones around you to take action and volunteer, you can create real change on the problems you see affecting your community. By volunteering, you're not just doing something good for others, you're inspiring your friends, family and school to find their passion for change and creating a ripple effect of volunteerism in your community.

## Fact:

Volunteering has been shown to help improve the health and well-being of volunteers and donors.



**A special thank you to The Allstate Foundation for empowering young Americans to make a difference in their local communities.**

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.

# Ways to Take Action

Rally your group to volunteer at the local homeless shelter to serve meals to your community.



## Campaign in Action:

### See the Impact!

Students at Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School are taking action on the causes they're passionate about, and getting their community involved too! During their WE Volunteer Now campaign, students organized a "Coldest Night of the Year" event, a family-friendly walking fundraiser that raised money for the hungry and homeless in more than 100 communities. Read their story at [WE.org/wevolunteernow](http://WE.org/wevolunteernow).



## At School:

- Organize a peace march to raise awareness about youth violence.
- Spend a week raising awareness about safe driving in your neighborhood.



## At Home:

- Organize a clothing drive with your family to support local shelters in your community.



## As a Community:

- Get together with members of your community to organize a week of volunteer activities. Visit a local seniors' center to engage with and learn from the elders in the community.

# Learning Outcomes

## Curriculum Name: Volunteerism: A Growing Movement

A classroom resource for introducing effective volunteering and community mobilizing around local issues.

Grade Level	Subject Connection	Skill Developed	Learning Goals
Elementary/ Middle	English Language Arts Social Studies	Action planning Research and writing Argument formation Organization Reflection	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about the history and importance of volunteerism in America.</li> <li>Research and discover an organization to volunteer with or plan their own volunteer experience.</li> <li>Understand and demonstrate ways to spread awareness.</li> </ul>
High School	English Language Arts Social Studies Business Studies	Information literacy Critical thinking Leadership skills	Students will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learn about the history and importance of volunteerism in America.</li> <li>Research and discover an organization to volunteer with or plan their own volunteer experience.</li> <li>Understand and demonstrate ways to spread awareness.</li> </ul>

## Checklist

- Investigate and learn with the Local Issue Cards
- Assign Club Cards to all members
- Action plan with your Local Yearbook
- Put up campaign posters
- Print out and distribute WE Volunteer Now MVP cards
- Share on social media with [#WEvolunteerNow](#)
- Complete your Campaign Impact Survey
- Plan your WE DayX
- WE Day App Challenge!

## WE Day App Challenge!

Calling all change-makers! Show us how you plan to make a difference in your community. Are you up for the challenge? Start small: help your educator after class or offer your time at a local library. Then, log on to your WE Day app to track your time. When we all rally together, change can happen. [#WEvolunteerNow](#)



Check out other resources for this campaign on your USB!



Organize a volunteer activity with your peers.

According to one study,  
**94% of people**  
**who volunteered**  
♥ said that volunteering  
had improved  
**their**  
**mood.**



Learn more about the issues at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.wecampus.org/exploringissues)  
Learn how to take action at [WE.org/wevolunteernow](https://www.wecampus.org/wevolunteernow)

**#WEvolunteerNow**

# Step 1: Investigate and Learn

Think about what local issues you're already passionate about, or the names of organizations in your community you would like to volunteer for.

Write or glue in your responses below!



To learn more about local issues affecting communities across the country, go through the Exploring Issues activity with your teacher.

When you are finished, write or draw your thoughts, feelings and ideas below!



Now that you know about local issues affecting people across the country, take time to learn about the issues in your own backyard! With the Community Mapping activity on your USB, you will identify the issues that affect your community by taking a walk around your neighborhood and mapping them out.

**What issues were you most surprised by?**  
**How did you feel about what you saw?**  
**Write down any thoughts or feelings you have.**

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Ask your friends and family what their favorite volunteer experience has been, to gain insight on what people enjoy most about volunteering and for new ideas on how you can take action!

# Set Your Goal

**Next, you're going to want to set a goal for your volunteer efforts!**

You can plan multiple small volunteer actions throughout your school and community or put all your effort into planning one big event! Encourage students and community members to rally together and plan some inspiring actions. By engaging in meaningful volunteer actions, you and your community can learn what it means to be a volunteer—to help impact others, make positive changes and boost the moods of yourself and others!

**What will your volunteer action be?**

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**When will you hold your volunteer week or event?**

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**What is your volunteering goal?**

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**How will you be measuring how much you volunteer? By hours? By actions?**

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**More people means more impact! How will you rally together and increase participation in your campaign?**

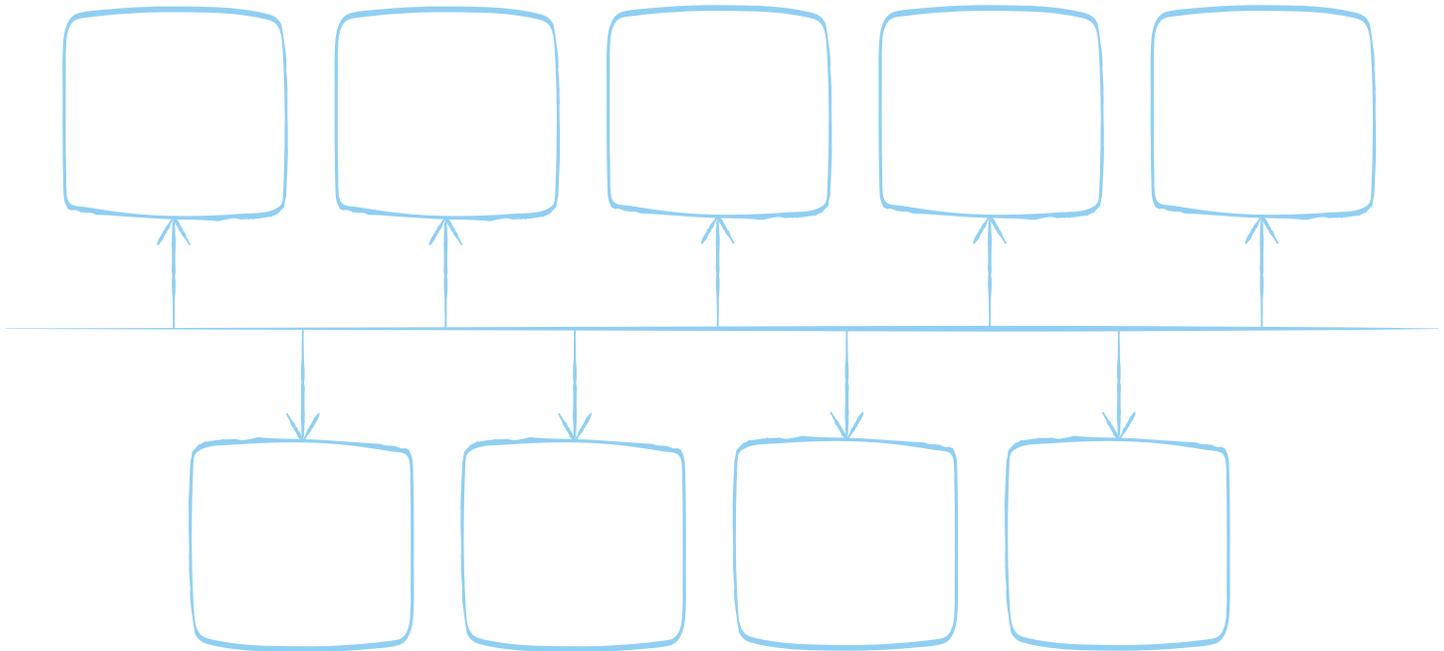
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# Step 2: Action Plan

**You've got a goal, but now you need a plan to put it into action.**

Create a timeline! From start to finish, plot the different steps your group will take to gear up for your volunteer actions. Make sure to include ways to promote your volunteer actions around the school, and jot down any supplies you might need!



**Brainstorm any issues that might come up during your actions. Discuss them with your group and think of ways that you can overcome them.**

PROBLEM

SOLUTION

Think of ways you can engage the rest of your school throughout the year. Write down a few ideas below to keep the spirit of volunteerism going all year long.

- E.g., Hold a competition—whichever volunteers the most hours in a set period of time wins a prize. Get local businesses to donate gift cards.
- E.g., Make a list of unusual, fun ways for people to volunteer and pass a copy out to each homeroom.
- E.g., The next time you hang out with your friends, suggest a day of volunteering instead of your usual weekend activities.
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## Step 3: *Take Action*



## Reflect

Reflect on what it felt like to help others. Do you feel like you had an impact on the local issues you were volunteering for? Why is it important to volunteer?

**Reflect on your campaign by drawing or writing some of the highlights and/or challenges.**



# Step 4: Report and Celebrate

Use the MVP cards on the next page to write down your group members' volunteer talents and their reasons for volunteering! Make sure to thank everyone who came out to support your volunteer efforts.

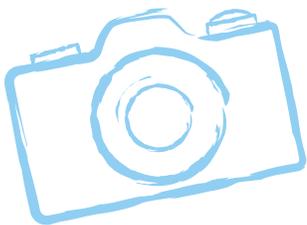
## Report

- ▶ How many different activities did you plan?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ How many people did you get involved in volunteer actions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ How many hours, on average, did each person volunteer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ How have your thoughts on volunteering changed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- ▶ Has your teacher contacted your WE Schools Partnership Manager about filling out an Impact Survey?  Yes /  No



## Celebrate!

It's important to celebrate and share the success and impact of your campaign, and to reward yourselves for all your hard work.



- ▶ Share photos of your actions with your school, community and WE Schools Partnership Manager.
- ▶ Record the highlights of your event day and create a video.
- ▶ Celebrate impacts through a class party, assembly or WE DayX.



Share your success with WE Volunteer Now by posting photos to social media using [#WEvolunteerNow](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/wevolunteernow/).