



After Global Youth Service Day

Strong follow-up is crucial to the success of any service project. It is not always the most glamorous work, but it is critical to ensuring a good experience for all involved, and for the organizers' ability to conduct future service projects. Here are some important follow-up steps:

PROJECT COMPLETION:

- Write thank you notes to sponsors, team leaders, organization representatives, and anyone else who helped implement the project. People will really appreciate it, and will be more willing to help again if you recognize their contribution.
- Write thank you notes to public officials who participated in your project in any way (working in the project, making a speech, issuing a proclamation, etc.) and invite them to participate in future projects to promote youth service.
- Send a final report to your sponsors. In addition to thank you notes, sponsors will appreciate and often expect a summary of what was accomplished with their support. Be specific about project accomplishments and how their support contributed to the project's success.
- Return equipment and anything else you borrowed.

REFLECTION AND EVALUATION:

- Hold a Planning Committee evaluation: The members of the planning committee that were closely involved in the organization and implementation of the project will have many ideas about how to improve the project for future events. Incorporate in your discussion the evaluations and recommendations offered by volunteers in the small group discussions and the end of the project.
- Complete the Global Youth Service Day evaluation found at www.gysd.org Your input will help GYSD in future years. This evaluation will also help you summarize the impact of your project.

CONTINUED SERVICE:

- Continue to incorporate service activities as a regular component of your organization's operations
- Encourage volunteers to become civically engaged: If volunteers had a good experience, they will likely be motivated to do more. Let them know that combining future service with civic involvement will maximize their impact. Give them information about how to contact public officials and government leaders in your community.
- Find out about the current status and support for youth service in your country, and engage in activities to influence policy decisions in favor of youth service programs.
- Use partnerships you have formed to provide youth with ongoing service opportunities. Partner with other groups to plan future events and publicize one another's ongoing service opportunities.

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE



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REFLECTION:

Go back to the original goals set in the Strategic Planning exercise and have participants answer the questions again, after the project is over. How do their answers compare to the responses they gave at the beginning?

- What did you originally want to accomplish and what did you actually do?
- What did you learn from this experience?
- How do you think this activity will help others?
- And how did this activity help you?