



A GoBlue4Kids Initiative

Service Project Expectations & Guidelines

The success of this national initiative depends on our partner sites. Each partner organization is unique and their needs are varied as to the scope and nature of service projects they may suggest. We welcome the diversity in projects and these young people are prepared to rise to the challenge and commit their time and energy to improving the quality of our lakes streams, rivers and shorelines. Our goal is to give back 1 million community service hours.

Keeping the process simple is a top priority as we recognize the many demands that the management staff at each site has upon them.. Service projects may be suggested for anytime between March 31, 2009 and December 31, 2010. Many sites already have a volunteer program structure in place and as such may designate one or more of your existing projects as part of the waterway's initiative. Site partners will be able to use a simple on-line project form to list their service project. When it is "ADOPTED" by a group you will receive email confirmation.

*The lead organization on this national project is Venturing and Sea Scouts although many youth programs will be invited to participate. The project is conducted in cooperation with the **National Youth Marine Alliance** and is a designated **REACH20**. The leadership that Venturing and Sea Scouts bring to the project will serve as a strong support system for the effort.*

Venturing and Sea Scouts are youth led programs where young people are taught the leadership skills of planning, goal setting, communication, problem-solving and teamwork. These young adults hone their leadership skills by planning high adventure experiences, community service and activities that are fun for their entire crew or ship.

The *Preserve America's Waterways Initiative* offers all youth an opportunity to put leadership skills into action while inspiring all generations to come through their projects that protect and improve the state of America's waterways.

What can an organization expect when planning and implementing a service project at their site?

- Dependable youth with a variety of skills and interests
- Volunteers who are energetic and capable of strenuous work
- Young adults who love nature and are committed to preserving its beauty
- Service that ranges from four hours to multiple weekends depending on the project chosen and the needs of the community

What are the possibilities?

- Beach and bank cleanup – Fishing Gear Tackle Clean up
- Water quality monitoring
- Coral reef restoration
- Wetlands and watershed education
- Habitat restoration
- Storm drain marking
- Erosion control
- Motor oil and hazardous substance disposal
- Projects that address a specific community / site need

Determine the hours for your project:

Try and estimate as best you can the number of volunteer hours you will need. If you believe your project could be accomplished over a weekend then consider this (12 youth working 6 hrs per day for 2 days - 144 hrs). To give a little breathing room we suggest you increase your required hours by about 20% so that groups with more kids will consider adopting your project. It is better to have more hours requested than less!

Determine the Number of Volunteers needed:

This input field on the on-line service project entry page of our web site is one which is designed to be more useful for sites that can only accommodate small groups. If for instance your spot can only facilitate 10 youth then make sure to enter it here – all others may simple elect to enter not applicable.

Thanks for helping out by providing a service project. Our youth appreciate it, we appreciate it and our planet appreciates it!