



Welcome to your guide to building your Youth Empowerment through Service (YES) chapter! This guide is intended to aid youth and their advisors make community service a more meaningful, stress-free and beneficial experience for everyone.

St. Joseph Youth Alliance has always had a commitment to youth community service because we know that a youth's involvement in their community significantly reduces crime and risky behaviors and increases feelings of community worth, citizenship, education and good decision-making. While we realize every youth is not involved in every organization, we wanted a mechanism to recognize and support youth and their leaders for service to the community, and so YES was born.

The first part of this guide explains what is expected of YES chapters and how to achieve set targets. We will guide you through each level of membership, what is required and what the benefits are at each level.

The second part of this guide gives an explanation of different national community service days and an application for becoming a recognized YES chapter.

We admire the work done by youth and their adult sponsors in and around St. Joseph and look forward to working with your YES chapter to achieve the best results for youth in our community.

Youth Empowerment Through Service (YES): An Overview

YES chapters are autonomous units that perform community service in partnership with St. Joseph Youth Alliance. YES chapters can be any group of youth that performs community service as part of the group's normal routine. **YES Chapters DO NOT have to only do service.** YES chapters work by tapping into a pre-formed audiences to increase the amount of community service performed in St. Joseph. YES chapters develop, plan and implement projects based on community needs that the YES chapter has identified.

Benefits for youth include:

- Helping the community within a safe, familiar environment.
- Recognizing the value of community service to the group they're already a part of.
- A greater understanding and appreciation of diversity in their community.
- A chance at representing their YES chapter on the Youth Action Coalition.

Benefits for YES Chapters include:

- Technical, Logistical and Planning Support from St. Joseph Youth Alliance by the Youth Volunteer Coordinator for Staff and Youth.
- Participation, Registration and Recognition for service performed on National Youth Service Day, Make a Difference Day and Martin Luther King Jr. Day and other national days of service.
- Newsletters informing all YES chapters of upcoming activities and important events and dates.
- Representation at the Youth Action Coalition, a governing body by youth centered on community service, leadership and citizenship.

Benefits for St. Joseph Youth Alliance include:

- Increased number of youth completing service in St. Joseph.
- Increased networks of youth for outside service projects.
- Increased partnership with agencies that host YES Chapters.

BRONZE

Requirements:

Administrative

- ❑ Pre and Post-Survey for Youth
- ❑ Pre and Post-Survey for Sponsoring Agencies
- ❑ Youth Roster
- ❑ Sign-in Sheets at Service Events

Service

- ❑ 3 Service Projects per Year
- ❑ 20 total Volunteers Utilized
- ❑ 100 Service Hours (can include planning meetings)
- ❑ Participation in 1 Major Service day per Year as 1 of the required projects
(Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Youth Service Day, Make a Difference Day, National Family Volunteer Day and others)

Benefits:

Administrative

- ❑ Results of Pre and Post-Survey for Reporting Purposes
- ❑ Access to project files
- ❑ Registration for National Days of Service

Service

- ❑ Group Recognition
- ❑ Documentation of Hours
- ❑ \$75.00

Silver

Requirements:

Administrative

- ❑ Pre and Post-Survey for Youth
- ❑ Pre and Post-Survey for Sponsoring Agencies
- ❑ Youth Roster
- ❑ Sign-in Sheets at Service Events

Service

- ❑ 5 Service Projects per Year
- ❑ 30 total Volunteers Utilized
- ❑ 150 Service Hours (can include planning meetings)
- ❑ Participation in 2 Major Service days per Year (Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Youth Service Day, Make a Difference Day, National Family Volunteer Day and others)
- ❑ Youth Representative on the Youth Action Coalition (YAC)

Benefits:

Administrative

- ❑ Results of Pre and Post-Survey for Reporting Purposes
- ❑ Access to project files
- ❑ Registration for National Days of Service

Service

- ❑ Group Recognition
- ❑ Documentation of Hours
- ❑ \$100.00

Gold

Requirements

Administrative

- ❑ Pre and Post-Survey for Youth
- ❑ Pre and Post-Survey for Sponsoring Agencies
- ❑ Youth Roster
- ❑ Sign-in Sheets at Service Events

- ❑ 8 Service Projects per Year
- ❑ 50 total Volunteers Utilized
- ❑ 250 Service Hours (can include planning meetings)
- ❑ Participation in 3 Major Service days per Year (Martin Luther King Jr. Day, National Youth Service Day, Make a Difference Day, National Family Volunteer Day and others)
- ❑ Youth Representative on the Youth Action Coalition (YAC)

Benefits:

Administrative

- ❑ Results of Pre and Post-Survey for Reporting Purposes
- ❑ Access to project files
- ❑ Registration for National Days of Service

Service

- ❑ Group Recognition
- ❑ Documentation of Hours
- ❑ \$125.00

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

During his lifetime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. worked tirelessly toward a dream of equality. He believed in a nation of freedom and justice for all, and encouraged all citizens to live up to the purpose and potential of America by uniting and taking action to make this country a better place to live.

The King Day of Service is a way to transform Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s life and teachings into community service that helps solve social problems. That service may meet a tangible need, such as fixing up a school or senior center, or it may meet a need of the spirit, such as building a sense of community or mutual responsibility. On this day, Americans of every age and background celebrate Dr. King through service projects that:

Strengthen Communities

Empower Individuals

Bridge Barriers

These ideas of unity, purpose, and the great things that can happen when we work together toward a common goal – are just some of the many reasons we honor Dr. King through service on this special holiday.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is held on the third Monday of each January.

<http://www.mlkday.org/>

National Youth Service Day

National Youth Service Day is the largest service event in the world.

Millions of youth will participate in the 18th Annual National Youth Service Day on April 21-23, 2006.

The goals of National Youth Service Day are:

- ❑ To **MOBILIZE** youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service.
- ❑ To **SUPPORT** youth on a life-long path of service and civic engagement.
- ❑ To **EDUCATE** the public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders.

On National Youth Service Day, a public awareness and education campaign that highlights the amazing contributions that young people make to their communities 365 days a year, young people will design and lead service-learning projects in areas ranging from literacy and the environment, to healthcare, hunger, and help for the elderly.

<http://www.ysa.org/nysd/>

Make A Difference Day

Make A Difference Day is the most encompassing national day of helping others -- a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Everyone can participate. Created by USA WEEKEND Magazine, Make A Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. In 2004, 3 million people cared enough about their communities to volunteer on that day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

Your project can be as large or as small as you wish! Look around your community and see what needs to be done. Or let the Idea Generator help you find a project idea to help your community.

After participating please send in an entry form so you will be counted among the millions of volunteers and be considered for an award.

Anyone. Young and old, individuals and groups, anyone can carry out a volunteer project that helps others. It might be as ambitious as collecting truckloads of clothing for the homeless, or as personal as spending an afternoon helping an elderly neighbor or relative. Make A Difference Day happens on the fourth Saturday of October.

<http://usaweekend.com/diffday/index.html>

For more information on National Days of Community Service please go to:

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/>

YES Member Application

Application Date ____/____/20____

Member Group Name _____

Adult Sponsor Contact Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Secondary Phone _____

Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Number of Regular Participants ____ Age Range of Participants ____ - ____

- I am Applying for Level... Bronze (3 Projects/Year inc. 1 major Service Day, 100 hours, 20 Volunteers total)
- Silver (5 Projects/Year inc. 1 major Service Day, 200 hrs. 40 Volunteers total)
- Gold (8 projects/ Year inc. 2 major Service Days, 300 hrs. 60 Volunteers total)

Please attach a statement of your group’s mission, views toward community service and briefly detail some examples of community service (if any) already performed including number of people served, number of volunteers and a short summary of the project.

Advisor’s Signature

Date

Agency Director

Agency Name

Please Mail or Fax Your Completed Application to:
St. Joseph Youth Alliance
c/o YES
625 Francis
St. Joseph, Mo. 64501yes
816.232.0050p
816.390.8536f
Email: ashleyc@youth-alliance.org Re: YES