



i-SAFE and Service Learning for Educators

Community Service vs. Service Learning

i-SAFE introduces a new Internet safety service-learning curriculum, taking Internet safety from the classroom into the community.

Incorporating service learning into K through 12 schools is of growing interest to educators. Like community service, service learning requires students to serve their communities; but the terms community service and service learning cannot be used interchangeably. Service learning takes community service one step further by incorporating students' service experiences directly into their schoolwork.

Service learning is integrated into the academic curriculum and designed so that students learn and develop through active participation in a community project. The end result is integrated learning that has meaning and a newfound civic responsibility. In fact, students who participate in service learning improve in areas across the board, including critical thinking, communication, teamwork, reasoning and problem-solving, public speaking, computer skills, etc.



Bridging the Gap Between Students and the Community

i-SAFE has always promoted integrated learning through its youth-empowerment projects, which allow students to take what they learn in the classroom about Internet safety out into the community. With the addition of a new service-learning packet in the i-SAFE curriculum, integrated learning and community service is taken one step further. Each lesson offers background learning so the primary goal of service to the community can be completed in a beneficial way for all concerned.

This program can be used in the traditional classroom, in a specified school service-learning atmosphere, or in a community-service club setting. i-SAFE is committed to meet not only educational goals, but also the goal of community improvement through education on the crucial topic of Internet safety.

With your lead, students will be able to create public-service announcements (PSAs), develop an assembly, conduct a community-leaders meeting, and much more. Your school can bridge the gap between students and the community by reaching out with Internet safety service-learning projects.

Educators can get information about ordering the i-SAFE service-learning curriculum by visiting our Web site at <http://www.isafe.org/servicelearning>. The curriculum has all of the information needed to implement Internet safety service-learning projects into your school and community. Service-learning projects are supported by the i-SAFE Outreach Department. Please refer questions about activities and materials to them at outreach@isafe.org.

Being Time-Wise

• **Twenty-four million children ages five through 14 spend unsupervised time during out-of-school hours. These hours represent time that could be spent volunteering.**

(American Youth Policy Forum)

• **Youth who volunteer are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote, and be philanthropic.**

(UCLA/Higher Education Research Institute, 1991)

i-SAFE and Service Learning for Students

Working Together for Change

According to the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse, service learning combines service and learning objectives to change both the recipient and the provider of the service. This is accomplished by combining service tasks with structured opportunities that integrate self-reflection, self-discovery, and the acquisition and comprehension of values, skills, and knowledge.

i-SAFE provides everything necessary to ensure that you are not just completing community service but benefiting and learning from the experience in true service-learning style. All projects benefit the community and aid you in learning more about Internet safety while spreading the word to others.



Experiencing the Real World

If interested in service learning, register as an i-MENTOR online by clicking on the “Kids and Teens” section at <http://www.isafe.org/servicelearning>. Students who become certified i-MENTORS using the i-MENTOR Training Network will watch the intern video, which shows students how to earn service-learning credit. The Internship program at i-SAFE allows students to get real-world experience, build community-service hours, and become involved in a worthwhile cause.

Making a Difference

- **Seventy-three percent of America's 60 million youth believe they can make a difference in their communities.**

(Do Something Young People's Involvement Survey / Princeton Survey Research, 1998)

- **Teens say the benefits from volunteering include learning to respect others, to be helpful and kind, and to understand people who are different from them; developing leadership skills; becoming more patient; and acquiring an understanding of good citizenship.**

(Independent Sector/Gallup, 1996)

Students have a range of projects from which to choose, such as hosting assemblies to distributing brochures. i-SAFE provides materials and step-by-step directions for meeting with your counselor, getting permission for projects, completing projects, and receiving service credit.

By following online guidelines, students complete the i-SAFE service-learning process and receive a certificate of completion.

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