

Service Learning

Achievements

Wasatch Peak Academy



*Choosing
Your Focus
Achievement*

There are so many opportunities for service learning. Sometimes all of the possibilities can be overwhelming! When we choose to focus on something specific, all of our efforts can be channelled to make the greatest impact possible.

The “Choosing Your Focus” Achievement is earned by choosing a service learning focus (for the whole school year or just for the next few months). After choosing your focus, brainstorm ideas of how you will implement this focus in your service learning.



*Conducting
an Interview
Achievement*

Where do you usually go when you need information? Books? The internet? Magazines? Those are all good sources, but reading is just one way of gathering information. An interview is another great way to gather information. Interviewing someone can be fun and exciting! There are many different types of interviews: information gathering interviews (fact-finding missions to learn more about your problem), personality portraits (paints pictures about famous people and experts), opinion gathering interviews (much like surveys, but give more in depth information), and persuasive interviews (help you build support teams and convince important people to join your team).

The "Conducting an Interview" Achievement is earned by filling out the Interview Form, setting up, and then conducting at least one interview related to your service learning.



*Making a
Phone Call
Achievement*

Did you know you can use the telephone to organize and collect information, interview people, take surveys, or even lobby someone? You can save a lot of time by using the telephone instead of traveling to each person you want to talk to.

The “Making a Phone Call” Achievement is earned by filling out the Phone Form, practicing your phone call, and then making a phone call to at least one person related to your service learning.



*Writing a
Letter
Achievement*

You will have a great deal of power to make a difference if you learn to write effective letters. There are many different kinds of letters you can write: support letters (thank people or tell them you agree with them), persuasive letters (try to influence someone), opposition letters (tell someone you don't agree with them), problem/solution letters (identify a problem and propose a solution), and request letters (ask for someone's help, encouragement, or support).

The "Writing a Letter" Achievement is earned by writing and sending a letter to someone related to your service.



*Writing an
Email
Achievement*

Writing an email can be more convenient than writing a letter or making a phone call. Letters cost money to mail; emails are free. Phone calls are great, but what if the person you are hoping to talk to is busy when you call? Someone can read and answer an email at their own convenience. Emails can be written for many different purposes--to collect information, interview people, send surveys, thank someone, persuade someone, give a request, or share your opinion. You can probably come up with even more purposes for writing an email!

The "Writing an Email" Achievement can be earned by planning, writing, and sending an email related to your service learning. Your email does not have to be long, but it should have a defined purpose.



*Applying for
a Grant
Achievement*

Have you ever wanted to do something, but needed money to make it happen? Every year, thousands of dollars in grants are given out. A grant is money given to be used for a specific purpose. One great thing about grants is that you don't have to repay the money. Applying for a grant can be a great way to try to get money for your service learning.

The "Applying for a Grant" Achievement is earned by applying for a grant related to your service learning. This achievement can be earned whether you receive the grant or not.



*Giving a
Speech
Achievement*

Do you have a panic attack at just the thought of giving a speech? Or are you one of those people who automatically migrates to the microphone and loves being the center of attention? Either way, you can learn to give great speeches. You might be surprised at the attention officials will give to your ideas when you give an effective speech.

The "Giving a Speech" Achievement is earned by filling out the Plan Your Speech form, then writing, practicing, and giving a speech related to your service learning.



*Conducting a
Survey
Achievement*

When you gather opinions from a group of people or a neighborhood, you have a survey. Surveys are useful tools for finding out what's best for people. You can't know what's best for a group of people without first understanding how they feel. Surveys do more than just gather information. They help you find people who agree with your ideas, identify your opposition, and sometimes surveys might even change your own opinion about something.

The "Conducting a Survey" Achievement is earned by brainstorming survey questions, choosing the best questions from your list, surveying a group of people, then analyzing your results.



*Creating a
Petition
Achievement*

How many times have you felt like nobody listens to you? Many kids feel this way, but you can do something about it! You can collect other voices and make a louder noise--one that's harder for people to ignore. A petition is a piece of paper with signatures to prove that many people agree with your position. It can be a very powerful tool in gaining the attention you might need for your problem or project.

The "Creating a Petition" Achievement is earned by using the Tips for a Successful Petition form to plan your petition, collect signatures from a specific group of people, then present your petition to someone who has power to act on your ideas.



*Designing a
Flyer
Achievement*

Flyers are a fairly simple way to tell many people about an event or cause. You can mail flyers, hand deliver them, or hang them up in public places where people will see them. Effective flyers fit on one page and are clear and easy to read. Flyers should answer the usual questions of who, what, when, where, and why. Use large lettering and illustrations to make your flyer interesting.

The “Designing a Flyer” Achievement is earned by designing, printing or copying, and distributing flyers for a service learning event or cause.



*Advertising in
a Newsletter
Achievement*

Many clubs, churches, and other organizations send out regular newsletters. Why not take advantage and advertise your service learning cause or event in a newsletter that people already read? Or you could even create a newsletter of your own!

The “Advertising in a Newsletter” Achievement is earned by advertising your service learning event or cause in an organization's newsletter. You will need to brainstorm organizations who might have newsletters, contact them, and ask for permission to advertise in their newsletter. You can also earn this achievement by creating your own newsletter to inform a group of people about your event or cause.



*Arranging
Media Coverage
Achievement*

Wouldn't it be exciting to see yourself on TV or on a page in the newspaper? Maybe hear your voice on the radio? It could happen to you! There's a way to make it happen--plan an event, then get the word out! TV stations, radio stations, and newspapers rely on news tips from the public to know what's going on in their area. Reporters love to cover stories about kids taking action! If you're going to contact the media, there are two ways to do it. You can call them on the phone and hope they will talk to you. You could also send out a news release. A news release is a written statement describing an event that is sent out to members of the media.

The "Arranging Media Coverage" Achievement is earned by contacting a local TV station, radio station, or newspaper and arranging to have them cover a service learning event you are involved in.



*Writing a
Newspaper Article
Achievement*

Some may say that newspapers are a dying thing, but there are still some out there, and writing an article for a newspaper can be a great way to make your voice heard. There are several different types of news articles. A news report is usually found at the front of a newspaper. It informs readers about what is happening in the world or their local area. Feature articles take a more in-depth look at the issues raised in a news report. Editorials or opinion pieces express the writer's opinion about a certain topic. Writers let their own personality show in these types of pieces.

The "Writing a Newspaper Article" Achievement is earned by writing an article for a local newspaper. Your article should relate to your service learning.



*Writing a
Blog Post
Achievement*

A blog is a regularly updated website that is usually written in a conversational tone. A blog can be read by many different people from many different places.

Your class could start a blog to share your service learning experiences with others. Or you may want to contact someone who has an already established blog and ask if you can write a post for their blog.

The “Writing a Blog Post” Achievement is earned by writing a post for your own blog or someone else's.

Your post could simply share your service learning experiences or it could be more persuasive or informative. Make sure you plan your post carefully, write it, and then have someone proofread it for you before it is shared.



*Wednesday Note
Submission
Achievement*

Your parents and other students at Wasatch Peak Academy want to know about service learning. You can share the things you have learned and the amazing things you are doing by creating something to be included in the Wednesday Note. There are many different things you could contribute to the Wednesday Note. A few ideas are: a couple of paragraphs explaining what you've been doing for service learning, a poster with pictures of what you've been doing and captions that give explanations, a drawing of something you've done or something you've learned, or another idea of your own. The options are endless!

The "Wednesday Note Submission" Achievement is earned by creating your service learning submission for the Wednesday Note and emailing it to Miss Lauren as a PDF. She will make sure it is included in the next issue of the Wednesday Note.



*Writing a
Facebook Post
Achievement*

Did you know Wasatch Peak Academy has a Facebook group where Mrs. Pilkington communicates with parents? Facebook is a great resource for quickly communicating information to a large group of people.

The “Writing a Facebook Post” Achievement is earned by writing a paragraph (or three or four!) about your experiences participating in service learning this year. You should also choose a picture or two to go along with your writing. Email your writing and pictures to Mrs. Pilkington so she can post it in the WPA group. Our school community will love seeing what you have to share!



*Creating a
Photo Collage
Achievement*

Have you ever heard the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words?” Sometimes showing someone a picture or group of pictures can be more powerful than anything you can say.

The “Creating a Photo Collage” Achievement is earned by taking or collecting photos related to your service learning. Use these photos to create a collage. You can write short captions for each photo or write one longer description for your entire collection of photos.



*Keeping a
Reflection Journal
Achievement*

No two people have the same opinions, ideas, and experiences. Your's matter! As you participate in service learning, you will learn a great deal and you might even change your mind about a few things along the way. Keeping a reflection journal is a great way to record this growth and change. Through keeping a journal, you will also learn how to express your feelings and ideas through writing.

The "Keeping a Reflection Journal" Achievement is earned by writing regular journal entries in a service learning reflection journal for several months. Write about your experiences participating in service learning, the things you are learning, and your personal opinions and ideas about what you are learning about.



*Writing a
Gratitude Letter
Achievement*

Have you ever received a thank you card? Do you remember how good it made you feel? Often when people are appreciated, they want to improve and do better. Showing someone you truly appreciate them can strengthen your relationship with them.

The "Writing a Gratitude Letter" Achievement is earned by writing a letter expressing appreciation to someone who has done something to support your service learning or someone who exemplifies the kind of service you are learning about. You should write a rough draft of your letter, edit and revise it, write a final draft, then mail or deliver it to the recipient.



*Lining up a
Guest Speaker
Achievement*

It's not always possible for a group of students to take a field trip, but sometimes you can have the field trip come to you by lining up a guest speaker! A guest speaker could be an expert about a certain topic, a government official, or someone else involved in something related to your service learning. You can learn a lot from listening to a guest speaker.

The "Lining up a Guest Speaker" Achievement is earned by brainstorming a list of possible people to have visit your class, choosing one, calling or emailing to arrange the visit, and then taking notes of what you learn from what they present.



*Building a
Community Partnership
Achievement*

When we work together, we can accomplish so much more than we could on our own. Establishing a partnership with a company or organization within your community can help you do things you wouldn't be able to do alone. When you form a partnership you can build relationships that give you opportunities to interact with people of diverse backgrounds and experience. You can learn to respect, understand, and appreciate those different from you. A community partner can do something as simple as provide you with materials to learn more about a specific topic or another partner might choose to be more involved.

The "Building a Community Partnership" Achievement is earned by establishing an on-going partnership with an individual or group in your community.

Your partnership can be with a nonprofit organization, service club, business, government office or agency, college, university, or other organization.

You should communicate clearly with your partner, keeping them informed and involved with what you are doing and what they can do. Don't forget to take the opportunity to thank you partner for being involved in your service learning!



*Organizing a
Fundraiser
Achievement*

Fundraising can be fun and it can also be a great learning experience! When you can put money where your mouth is--solve your problem or support your project with dollars--this can sometimes persuade officials to act on your ideas. There are many different ways you can successfully raise money. A few ideas for raising money are: selling commercially prepared food, selling services, asking for donations, and asking for in-kind donations. You can probably brainstorm many more creative ways to raise money!

The "Organizing a Fundraiser" Achievement is earned by identifying a purpose for a fundraiser, brainstorming ideas for the type of fundraiser that will be most effective, planning and advertising for your fundraiser, holding a fundraising event, and then making a plan for how to best use the money or items that were donated. Don't forget to spend time talking about how your fundraiser went! What went well? What would you do differently next time?



*Planning a
Field Trip
Achievement*

Field trips can be a great change of pace from regular days in the classroom. You may think a field trip is all fun and games, but with a little planning ahead, your field trip can be so much more. You could plan a field trip that involves visiting an organization or charity, participating in a service project, or observing a meeting or other event. Be creative!

The “Planning a Field Trip” Achievement is earned by brainstorming ideas for a service learning field trip for your class or grade, arranging and planning the field trip, participating in the field trip, then reflecting on the experiences you had and things you learned.



*Carrying Out a
Service Project
Achievement*

Often times service learning can culminate with a service project. Service projects are a great way to go from researching and learning to taking action and making a difference. When you think of service projects, you probably think of things like cleaning up a trail or visiting residents at a care center. These are great projects, but they only represent one type of service—direct service. There are actually four types of service and all should be considered when planning a service project. Direct service is service that directly impacts the persons, animals, or parks we want to impact (ex: cleaning up a park). Indirect service is the type of service in which you are not in the presence of the person or thing you are impacting (ex: fundraising or taking collections for a certain organization or group of people). Advocacy is when you speak up for or against a certain issue or solution (ex: holding a community information night to encourage voting). Research involves finding out new information that informs or demands action (ex: research the best ways to conserve water and learn what minor changes people can make).

The "Carrying out a Service Project" Achievement can be earned by planning and participating in a service project of your choice.



*Map
Pinning
Achievement*

Have you ever noticed the giant map hanging outside the gym at WPA? Have you wondered why it's there? Our map celebrates WPA students who have completed a project that makes a difference for those living in our local community. Your class has the opportunity to add a pin to our map in a special pinning ceremony. This achievement is unlike any other and requires a more sustained effort on your part, but it will be so worth it!

The "Map Pinning" Achievement is earned by organizing and carrying out a large service learning project that has a significant impact in the community around us. To complete this project your colony will need to write a letter to Mrs. Pilkington telling her what you did, who it helped, and how it made our community better. You will also need to include a picture of your class completing the project. We will then celebrate with a special ceremony placing a pin in the map and hanging your picture on the wall for everyone to see. Make your mark and become part of the WPA hall of Fame!



*Create Your
Own
Achievement*

Have you done something for service learning that you think you should earn an achievement for? Maybe what you've done doesn't quite fit in any of the achievements in this book?! That's okay! You can create your own achievement. Fill out the "Create Your Own Achievement" form, and if your application is approved, you will receive a special achievement of your own. Who knows?! Maybe your achievement will become something any class in the school can earn!