

NATIONAL



**LEARN & SERVE
CHALLENGE**
OCTOBER 5-12, 2009

A signature event of the



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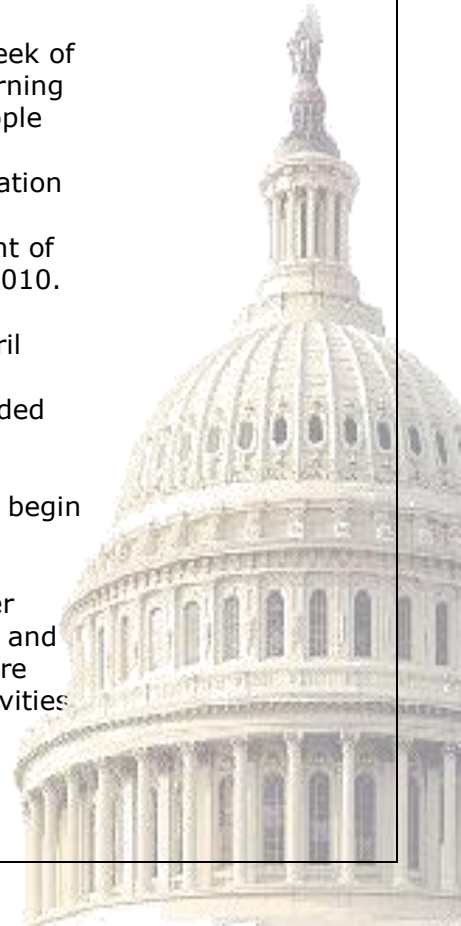
*In Collaboration with the
Corporation for National
and Community Service*

Introducing Service Learning

- Service-learning is a teaching method that engages young people in solving problems within their schools and communities as part of their academic studies or other type of intentional learning activity.
- Students master important curriculum content by making meaningful connections between what they are studying and its many applications in the world around them.
- Service-learning also helps young people develop a range of service skills, from acts of kindness and caring, to community stewardship, to civic action.
- Service-learning is an active learning strategy that improves student engagement, which is a key factor in promoting academic achievement.
- Whether the students of Central and Andrews High Schools of High Point, North Carolina; Kiamsha Youth Empowerment Organization of Prince George's County, Maryland, or the King Team of ICVR in Pine Bluff, Arkansas,

The National Learn and Serve Challenge

- The National Learn & Serve Challenge is a weeklong series of local, state, and national events designed to raise awareness and public support for service-learning.
- What does that mean for the PEN OR PENCIL Initiative™? By participating in this national week of activities, we hope to spotlight how service-learning has made a difference in the lives of young people right here in our own school/community.
- In 2006, President George W. Bush's administration established a national goal to ensure 5 million college students serve and to engage 50 percent of America's K-12 schools in service-learning by 2010.
- As he began his leadership, President Obama renewed the commitment to service, and in April 2009, the Serve America Act was passed – challenging the nation to a renewed and expanded commitment to service learning.
- On the eve of the UNITED WE SERVE Initiative, launched this summer by President Obama, we begin the Learn and Serve Challenge.
- We're doing our part to get our nation's young people and our schools closer to this goal. After highlighting the ways learning is brought to life and communities are transformed, we hope to inspire others to launch their own service-learning activities.



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JOIN THE MOVEMENT

2009-2010 PEN OR PENCIL Student No Violence Coordinating Corporations

The National Alliance of Faith and Justice has dedicated the 2009 National Learn & Serve Challenge to the memory of the late Senator Edward M. Kennedy, key sponsor of the Serve America Act. The Edward M. Kennedy Memorial Learn and Serve Challenge will empower young people nationwide in partnership with youth aged 55 and older to make a difference.

As a strategic partner, the National Alliance of Faith and Justice (NAFJ) will commit and invite new partners across the country to reignite a direct action movement by engaging a critical mass of young people to plan and work side by side with youth who participated in the historic Student Nonviolence Coordinating Committee (SNCC) movement (now 55 or older).

Youth will use FREEDOM OF CHOICE AGREEMENTS and a new and dedicated technology, DASHOLOGY™, during the Learn and Serve Challenge Week as a tool to recruit peer shareholders and community investors to take stock in their communities and address tough problems like truancy, violence, high dropout rates, disproportionate minority contact, and community depreciation.

To learn more about the movement, visit us at www.penorpencilmovement.org or contact us at volunteer@nafj.org

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"Every single one of you has something you're good at. Every single one of you has something to offer. And you have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is. That's the opportunity an education can provide.

You'll need the insights and critical thinking skills you gain in history and social studies to fight poverty and homelessness, crime and discrimination, and make our nation more fair and more free. You'll need the creativity and ingenuity you develop in all your classes to build new companies that will create new jobs and boost our economy.

We need every single one of you to develop your talents, skills and intellect so you can help solve our most difficult problems. If you don't do that - if you quit on school - you're not just quitting on yourself, you're quitting on your country."

President Barack Obama