

## **Service Learning WISH Middle**



### **Opportunities and Requirements for WISH Service Learning**

*Service learning means giving back to the community with one's time and acquiring new knowledge, wisdom, and/or skills through the process.*

***How wonderful it is that nobody needs to wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.***

*-Anne Frank, 1947*

- Community service usually involves volunteering with a non-profit organization. All of the opportunities listed in this flyer are great options.
- Asking “Is there any other way I can be of help?” if you’ve finished a task and don’t know what else to do

- Being respectful of everyone present.
- Listening carefully to instructions.
- Talking to friends and other people when appropriate, but not letting that get in the way of one's work.

What community service is **not**:

- Community service is not showing up to a volunteer opportunity and being more of an inconvenience than a help. What this would look like:
  - Not working hard (i.e. just staring into space or messing around with friends most of the time).
  - Not listening to directions from the people in charge.
  - Getting in the way of other people doing their jobs.
  - Helping your family by mowing the lawn, taking out the trash, etc. (though those are still great things to do!) do not count. Community service benefits the larger community beyond one's family and current friends.

***If you're having trouble finding a way to fulfill your service hours, try:***

- Asking a friend where they plan to volunteer and see if whoever is driving him/her can pick you up and take you there as well.
- Speaking to your English teacher.

## Requirements

Students must complete the following number of hours for culmination. Hours can be completed during the summer prior to the school year and will be due during the 3rd quarter.

**6th graders - 5 hours / 7th graders - 10 hours / 8th graders - 15 hours**

*At the end of the service learning quarter, students complete a writing assignment based on their experience.*



## Opportunities

### General Websites to support Service Learning:

[ProjectGivingKids.org](http://ProjectGivingKids.org)

[TeensVolunteer.org](http://TeensVolunteer.org)

### Gardening

#### **Emerson Community Garden Volunteer Days:**

- Description: Members of the Westchester community help maintain this garden on the first Saturday of each month from 9am to 12pm (RSVP not required). Recent activities have included painting, weeding, and installing a storage system. Tending one's own garden plot there does not count as community service.
- Website: <http://www.eacgc.org/calendar>.
- Minimum Age: None.
- Adult Required: Minors must have a waiver signed by an adult before volunteering here, but an adult does not necessarily need to stay with them throughout the volunteering process.
- Address: 8050 Emerson Ave, L.A., CA 90045.

#### **Community Garden at Holy Nativity:**

- Description: Every Thursday from 4:15 to sunset (or an hour afterwards in the winter), volunteers help grow fresh fruits and vegetables for the LAX Food Pantry. Though the garden is located on the grounds of a church, it is not connected to any kind of religious activity. The supervisors of this garden can only accommodate about 3 middle-school volunteers at a time, so please email [legacyla@gmail.com](mailto:legacyla@gmail.com) and [holynativity@sbcglobal.net](mailto:holynativity@sbcglobal.net) to confirm that they have openings available and will indeed be meeting on the day you wish to help.
- Website:



<http://www.holynativityparish.org/the-community-garden-at-holy-nativity/>

- Adult Required: Preferred for students under the age of 15, but only required for students under the age of 11.
- Minimum Age: None.
- Address: 6700 W. 83rd St., Westchester, CA 90045 (A 20 minute walk from the WISH campus.)

## **Habitat Restoration**

### **Friends of the Ballona Wetlands:**

- Description: From 9:30am to noon on the fourth Saturday of every month, volunteers help keep the Ballona Wetlands a place where native plants and animals can thrive. Projects include removing invasive species and trash as well as caring for native plants.
- Website: [http://www.ballonafriends.org/initiatives\\_events.html](http://www.ballonafriends.org/initiatives_events.html)
- Minimum Age: None.
- Adult Required: Volunteers under the age of 15 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Address: 303 Culver Blvd., Playa del Rey, CA 90293 (behind the market, in the northeast corner of the travel parking lot).

### **Santa Monica Bay Foundation:**

- Description: This Foundation hosts a variety of volunteer events to help keep aquatic ecosystems around the Santa Monica Bay healthy, thus helping the plants, animals, and people who depend on the services the Bay provides. Events have included removing invasive species at UCLA's Stone Creek, caring for native plants at the Culver City Rain Garden and in Playa del Rey, and more.
- Website: <http://www.santamonicabay.org/events/>
- Minimum Age: Varies.
- Adult Required: Varies.
- Address: Varies.

### **Tree Musketeers:**

- Description: Join Tree Musketeers volunteers as they care for trees.



Activities include watering, mulching, weeding, pruning and litter abatement with our Community Forester. Tree Musketeers provides the tools and know-how, you come ready to "dig in" to your community. Contact [volunteers@tree.musketeers.org](mailto:volunteers@tree.musketeers.org) to sign up. Students under the age of 18 who come alone must have a consent form signed by a parent/guardian (click link at bottom of this page: <https://treemusketeers.org/how-to-help/volunteer-calendar/>)

- Website: <https://treemusketeers.org/volunteer/>
- Minimum Age: None.
- Adult Required: Only for children under 10.
- Address: Varies.

## **Animals**

### **LA Rabbit Foundation:**

- Description: Help with the weekly adoption event at the LA Rabbit Foundation Headquarters (every Saturday, 12-4pm) or arrange another time to help the foundation care for their bunnies. Click "I want to help!" and create a free Volunteer Match account to let the LARF Team know you're coming to help at an adoption event or to arrange a different time to volunteer.
- Website:  
Help out with general bunny care - <http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp298178.jsp> Help out with Saturday adoption events - <http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp1568453.jsp>
- Minimum Age: 5.
- Address: 3860 Centinela Ave, Mar Vista, Los Angeles, CA 90025

### **Forte Animal Rescue:**

- Description: Volunteers can help with the set-up and tear-down of Forte's weekly adoption events, which are held every Saturday from 12 to 4 (call 310-362-0321 to RSVP and confirm the event you wish to volunteer at hasn't been canceled). Additionally, one can contact Forte



at <http://farescue.org/contact/> to arrange to become a part of their Junior Volunteer Program and gain more hands-on experiences with the dogs.

- Website: <http://farescue.org/volunteer/>,  
<http://farescue.org/volunteer/junior-volunteer-program/>
- Minimum Age: Volunteers must have completed the sixth grade.
- Adult Required: No.
- Address: Centinela Feed & Pet Supplies, 3860 S. Centinela Avenue, Los Angeles, CA, 90066 (for weekly adoption events).

### Other

#### **Food Forward:**

- Description: Food Forward volunteers rescue surplus produce from fruit trees and farmers markets. 100% of these fresh fruits and vegetables are donated to hunger relief agencies in SoCal. To sign-up for a volunteer opportunity, click the following link, input your zip code and the maximum distance you're willing to travel, then follow their instructions:  
<https://foodforward.org/volunteer/sign-up-to-volunteer/>.
- Minimum Age: 5 for fruit picks and 12 for farmers market events.
- Adult Required: Yes for all volunteers under 16.
- Address: Varies

