



**Beyond School Bells**

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# **EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY INNOVATION NETWORK**

**Civic Nebraska Center of  
Excellence**

# **WELCOME**



Communities across Greater NE are losing their best and brightest young people. It begs the questions:

- How will we keep our young people here in Greater Nebraska?
- How will we build communities so that people will not only want to stay, but also want to move into
- How will we create the kind of civic pride that will translate into thriving communities for years to come?





**The new Center of Excellence, through a partnership between Beyond School Bells and Civic Nebraska, will serve as a hub for partnerships, information, and resources from across Greater Nebraska to address those questions.**

# What is the Center of Excellence?



From our new Grand Island office, this collaboration will create a physical and virtual hub for professional development, experiential activities, and community engagement for students, educators, and after school professionals to plan and implement service learning in the after-school space.

The Center of Excellence works to give all stakeholders the opportunity to do meaningful work to support and improve their communities





# Greater Nebraska Center of Excellence

**On site collaboration space for teachers, after school providers, community partners, and students**

**Virtual archived professional development**

**Live online presentation and professional development**



# Service Learning

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**Service-learning is an approach to teaching and learning in which students use academic and civic knowledge and skills to address genuine community needs.**

Service-learning is a type of experiential and project-based learning that drives students' academic interests and passions toward addressing real community needs. The process is a learner-centered cycle of inquiry, compelling young people to answer questions such as:

- What are the true needs in my community?
- What are the root causes of these needs?
- How, where, and from whom can I learn more?
- How can I contribute to a solution?



# Standards for High Quality Service Learning

- Meaningful Service: personal and community relevance
- Link to Curriculum: intentional teaching strategy
- Reflection: ongoing thinking and analysis
- Diversity: understanding and mutual respect
- Youth Voice: a voice in planning and implementing
- Partnerships: collaborative and mutually beneficial
- Progress Monitoring: ongoing assessments
- Duration and Intensity: to address community needs



# Getting Started in Service Learning



- Identify an authentic community need
- Research and plan
- Identify community partners
- Create a plan
- Implement
- Celebrate
- Reflect throughout



# Examples



## Community Gardening

One program operated 36 raised bed gardens. Students from K-5 took part in every aspect of the garden and provided the equivalent of 1,000 meals of fresh, healthy produce to local families who were living in a food desert.



## Senior Prom

Students determined that elderly people in their area were often lonely and left out of activities. Students, along with a gerontology class and a retirement home, planned a "Senior Prom." They had food, music and dancing.



## Mini Pantries

One student group decided to work on food insecurity in neighborhoods where many families did not have reliable transportation. They partnered with a builder and the food bank and built and filled mini pantries in neighborhoods.



## Resources

Civic Nebraska Center of Excellence  
homepage

<https://www.civicnebraska.org/youth-civic-leadership/service-learning-center-excellence/>

Beyond School Bells

<https://beyondschoolbells.org/>

National Youth Leadership Council

<https://www.nylc.org/>



# Meeting #2



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# What does Service Learning do for your community?

Service-learning has a [positive effect](#) on students personal and interpersonal development leadership and communication skills

Service-Learning is part of a national movement to increase civic engagement.

Service-Learning helps prepare students for the job market.

Service-Learning provides useful services in the community addressing authentic issues.



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# Today

Conference Opportunity

National Youth Leadership Council (NYLC)

April 14, 15

Free to you

<https://www.nylc.org/page/SLCHome>

Service Learning Training

NYLC

Progress on group formation and topic selection

Volunteer Nebraska

Place to look for ideas <http://www.volunteernebraska.org/>

Turn volunteerism into Service Learning

Mary Ingram, Phillips, NE

An opportunity

Watchable Wildlife NE Game and Parks

<http://outdoornebraska.gov/watchablewildlifegrants/>

Civic NE 24% matching



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# Next Steps

## Planning Your Project

### Possible Subgroups

Partnerships – school or community

Inventory resources

Inventory needs - \$, tools, transp

plan steps in the process

### Build in Time for Reflection

## Teacher/Supervisor's role

Oversight – schedule, budget

Documentation

Allow for student decisions



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Next meeting  
reflection  
Forming  
partnerships



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