

Youth Launch Leaders

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Service Leadership: A Personal Story of Youth Empowerment



When I was approached about becoming the leader for the Service Leadership Club, I was nervous to say the least. I was up for the challenge but wasn't sure what service leadership really was. After working with an amazing group of high school students I have come up with my own definition: Service leadership is providing a service while gaining real-life experience.

I was able to demonstrate service leadership by planning and organizing an Outdoor Education Day for all middle school students. Outdoor Day was designed to let kids spend time outside the classroom and help students

engage in school by letting them choose their own classes. Each small class allowed students to interact with teachers or community members to strengthen caring adult relationships. Over half the classes were taught by parents to provide opportunities for parent involvement in school. Creative activities were introduced like corn husk dolls, flower crafts, pumpkin and rock painting, and guitar. Team building was a key component of many classes like scavenger hunt and canoeing. Students also participated in fun classes like archery, exploring, and fishing. The students who participated in Outdoor Day can look back on the day and realize it was more than a fun day. It is about connecting with other adults, helping students find their passions and developing leadership skills.

Currently, the Service Leadership Club is working on a food drive. The students are gaining knowledge in organization and networking. Students are also getting to look at the reality that not everyone has food on the table every night. These lessons will stick with them when they are done with high school and moving on in the world. More importantly they will remember for a lifetime the impact that a small group can make on the community.



This article was written by Cassidy Fulton. Cassidy has been with the Alley Youth Program in Lamoni, IA for four years as a volunteer, intern, and two year Graceland University AmeriCorps Youth Launch member.

Contact Us

Youth Launch Leaders

Graceland University

1 University Place

Lamoni IA 50140

641-784-5401

YLL@graceland.edu

www.graceland.edu/YLL



Connecting Asset to Service

Assets are the building blocks of positive youth development. By connecting assets to service leadership projects, you can maximizing the benefits to the youth involved.

