

K-12 “MOMENTS OF SERVICE” CALENDAR

BATTLE CREEK 2016-2017

The following **Moments of Service Calendar** is a guide for Battle Creek educators to use while planning service-learning projects. **Service-learning**, by definition, “is a teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.” It is the process of bring the curriculum that is taught in the classroom out into a community to create a positive impact and change that the community will benefit from, and that students will learn from.

This calendar is broken down by month; September - May. Each month has a “monthly theme,” which you can choose to focus your service-learning projects around. In addition to the monthly theme, each month as individual days of service listed. Each of the days of service listed is accompanied by a description of the day as well as by a “partner with” list, which is made up of community members that **may be interested** in partnering with you to plan to participate in service-learning projects.

Please note that not all community members may in interested or available to participate in service-learning projects on each of the days they are listed under. Due to this, please be courteous and contact each of the community members you are interested in working with **prior** to planning your project with them. For community member contact and other information, please refer to the **2016-2017 Battle Creek K-12 Service-Learning Community Resource Guide**.

Please visit the following websites for more project ideas, steps and resources:

www.generationon.org

www.learningtogive.org

LET THESE NOTABLE HOLIDAYS AND COMMEMORATIONS INSPIRE YOUR STUDENTS TO SERVE!

SEPTEMBER

Monthly Theme: Emergency Preparedness & Response Month

Plan service-learning projects that educate our community on necessary information needed to navigate emergencies in Battle Creek!

Labor Day September 7th	Celebrate a day of festivities held in honor of working people in the US and Canada!
	PARTNER WITH: VA Medical Center, Vet’s Manor, Air Force Recruiting, Battle Creek Fire Department, Battle Creek Police Department, Michigan National Guard Family Program, Military First
Patriot day Day of Service and Remembrance September 11 th	Commemorate the heroes of September 11 th by challenging your students to exercise their courage to be an everyday hero through service to the community. Remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11.
	PARTNER WITH: Red Cross Calhoun Branch, VA Medical Center, Air Force Recruiting, Battle Creek Fire Department, Battle Creek Police Department, Michigan National Guard Family Program, Vet's Manor, Military Family First
Citizenship/Constitution day September 16 th	Recognize the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. Use the rights and responsibilities guaranteed in the U.S. Constitution to teach about the importance of a civil society. Focus students on their responsibility to give their time, talent, and treasure for the common good (philanthropy).
	PARTNER WITH: Battle Creek Police Department

OCTOBER

Monthly Theme: Anti-Bullying: Peace & Kindness

Plan uplifting service-learning projects that promote positivity throughout Battle Creek!

National breast cancer awareness month	Teach about the importance of donating and the role of non-profit organizations in supporting medical research to fight disease. Challenge students to raise money for a cause of their choice.
	PARTNER WITH: American Cancer Society, Bronson Hospital
Make a Difference Day October 22 nd	Empower students to discover how much difference they can make in just one day of service to meet community needs!
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide!
Halloween October 31 st	Help students develop altruistic behavior by encouraging them to plan and implement a “trick or treat” campaign to benefit a non-profit organization.

November

Monthly Theme: Military & Veterans

Work towards promoting awareness and giving thanks to military and veteran services in Battle Creek by planning meaningful service-learning projects!

Veterans Day November 11 th	Celebrate the anniversary of the end of World War I to honor US veterans and victims of all wars. Use this teachable moment to have students focus on the contributions of "real" heroes for the common good, and plan for a way they can become heroes in even a small way in their community through service and volunteerism.
	PARTNER WITH: VA Medical Center, Air Force Recruiting, Battle Creek Fire Department, Battle Creek Police Department, Michigan National Guard Family Program, Vet's Manor, Military First
National Philanthropy Day November 15 th	This day provides an opportunity to reflect on the meaning of giving – how it has enhanced our civic society, as well as what there is still to do.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide!
Family Volunteer Day November 19 th	Demonstrate the power of families who volunteer together to serve the communities in which they live. Volunteering as a family provides quality time for busy families, strengthens communication and bonds, and positively impacts local communities across the nation.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide!
Thanksgiving Day November 24 nd	In this season of giving, help your students reflect on what they are thankful for and how they can "pay it forward" to those who are less fortunate through a collection campaign for food, coats, or other needed items.
	PARTNER WITH: Sprout Urban Farms, Art Center of Battle Creek, Bronson Hospital, and ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide under "Senior Services," or "Social Justice and Equality."

DECEMBER

Monthly Theme: Homelessness & Poverty

Work towards promoting awareness of homelessness and poverty in Battle Creek by planning meaningful service-learning projects!

World AIDS Day December 1 st	Teach about the importance of donating and the role of non-profit organizations in supporting medical research to fight disease. Challenge students to raise money for a cause of their choice.
	PARTNER WITH: Bronson Hospital
Hanukkah Dec 24 th – Jan 1 st Christmas Dec 25 th Kwanzaa Dec 26 th - Jan 1 st	Use the spirit of the season to encourage your students to actively spread holiday cheer by reaching out to those less fortunate. Form a caroling troupe, cook hot meals or host a school-wide penny drive.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide listed under "Senior Services," or "Poverty/Homelessness."

JANUARY

Monthly Theme: Hunger

Work towards reducing hunger in Battle Creek by planning fulfilling service-learning projects!

National Mentoring Month	Created by the Harvard School of Public Health, the National Mentoring Month focuses national attention on the need for mentors, as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to assure positive outcomes for our young people.
New Year's Day January 1 st	Each year more than half of all people living in the U.S. (more than 150,000,000 people) make New Year Resolutions. Encourage students to include service and volunteerism on their list of New Year Resolutions. Partner with: Bronson, YMCA, Sprout Urban Farms, and ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide listed under "Senior Services," or "Poverty and Homelessness."
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day January 16 st	Raise students' awareness of the concepts of 'caring, respect and fairness' and encourage students to demonstrate these character qualities to honor the legacy of Dr. King. Partner with: Community Inclusive Recreation

FEBRUARY

Monthly Theme: Literacy

Work towards improving Battle Creek's literacy by planning effective service-learning projects to promote reading and writing!

Black History Month	Students explore the role of African Americans in U.S. history and celebrate their achievements with acts of service.
Valentine's Day February 14 th	Help students demonstrate their caring and friendship through acts of caring and kindness for individuals, and for organizations that serve those in need. PARTNER WITH: Bronson Hospital, or ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide listed under "Senior Services," or "Poverty and Homelessness."
President's Day February 20 th	Teach the importance of public service, perseverance, and rights and responsibilities through the examples of President George Washington and President Abraham Lincoln.

MARCH

Monthly Theme: Reading

Work towards improving Battle Creek's literacy by planning effective service-learning projects to promote reading!

Women's Appreciation Month	Use the courage, passion and conviction of women philanthropists to inspire and motivate your students to serve.
Read Across America Day March 2 nd	Work to improve your student's reading scores PARTNER WITH: Willard Library, Bronson Hospital, or ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide listed under "Senior Services," or "Poverty and Homelessness."

World Water Day March 22 nd	Focus student attention on the need for drinking water and irrigation to alleviate world hunger. Challenge your students to address the issue of water through a service project.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide listed under “Environment.”
Cesar Chavez Day March 31 st	A day that recognizes the legacy of Cesar Chavez, who believed that people have an obligation to contribute to their community.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide!
APRIL <i>Monthly Theme:</i> Environment Honor Battle Creek's environment by planning sustainable service-learning projects that promote the health of our environment!	
Easter April 6 th	Use the spirit of the season to encourage your students to actively spread holiday cheer by reaching out to those less fortunate. Form a caroling troupe, cook hot meals or host a school-wide penny or supply drive.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide under “Senior Service,” “Poverty and Homelessness,” as well as Bronson Hospital.
Global Youth Service Day April 21 st – 23 rd	Join the largest service event in the world, celebrated in over 100 countries on 6 continents, that mobilize millions of youth to improve their communities through service.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide
National Volunteer Week April 23-29 th	National Volunteer Week, brought to you by Points of Light, is about inspiring, recognizing, and encouraging people to seek out innovative ways to engage their communities.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide
Earth Day April 22 nd	Encourage environmental stewardship (preserving, conserving, repairing, and enhancing the environment) through awareness, problem identification, problem solving, and team building, focused around an environmental service project.
	PARTNER WITH: Clean Water Fund, Calhoun Conservation District, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Leila Arboretum, Sprout Urban Farms, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department
Arbor Day April 28 th	Arbor Day, a natural tie-in to science curriculum about plants and trees, is an opportunity to teach about the importance of green spaces for the common good, and to plant trees in a common area.
	PARTNER WITH: Clean Water Fund, Calhoun Conservation District, Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, Leila Arboretum, Sprout Urban Farms, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, Battle Creek Parks and Recreation Department

MAY

Monthly Theme: Senior Citizens

Honor Battle Creek's senior citizens by planning rewarding service-learning projects that bridge the gap between your students and their elders!

National Skin Cancer Awareness Month	Teach your students about the importance of awareness and get them excited to share what they have learned. Have students brainstorm ways to spread public awareness through a service-learning project.
	PARTNER WITH: Bronson Hospital, American Cancer Society
Cinco de Mayo May 5 th	Learn about and celebration Mexican culture and heritage!
	PARTNER WITH: VOCOS
Join Hands Day May 6 th	Develop relationships between young people and adults through neighborhood volunteering. Youth and adults work together to plan, organize and implement the day's activity while building relationships, trust, and respect, which creates a sense of community.
	PARTNER WITH: ANY of the community members listed on the Community Resource Guide listed under "Senior Services"
Memorial Day May 29 th	Use this 'teachable moment' in honor and remembrance of those who gave their all in service to the United States to educate students about patriotism and motivate students for service to their community and country.
	PARTNER WITH: VA Medical Center, Vet's Manor, Air Force Recruiting, Battle Creek Fire Department, Battle Creek Police Department, Michigan National Guard Family Program, Military First