

July E-News from Florida Learn & Serve

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1. News

Florida Learn & Serve 2004-05 School-based Grants

Florida Learn & Serve (FL&S) has just received notification from the Florida Department of Education that the 2004-05 FL&S grant award recommendations from staff and reviewers have been approved. Applicants will be contacted in the next few weeks with the results of the grant review.

10TH Annual Service-Learning Institute

The 10th Annual Florida Service-Learning Institute will be held in November in Orlando. Florida Learn & Serve and Title IV Community Service Program grantees (for the 2004-05 school year) are required to attend and the institute is open to anyone interested in learning more about service learning. There is no registration fee and we encourage you to invite administrators, community partners, and teachers to attend. Pre-conference trainings and dozens of informative workshops will be offered for beginners to advanced practitioners. There will be a strand of workshops for students and on- and off-site service-learning projects. More information will be available on our website www.fsu.edu/~flserve in the next months.

2. Awards

Jackson Academy of Applied Technology Featured in Learn & Serve American Newsletter (<http://www.learnandserve.org/>)

At the Learn & Serve America project at Jackson Academy of Applied Technology (JAAT) in Marianna in north Florida, students are intensively involved in landscape restoration and water testing in the Chipola River watershed. They are now working with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide data on conditions in the imperiled Chipola River watershed. JAAT is the first high school in United States to be named a DEP/EPA water testing data center and a member of EPA's STORET data collection site program. Short for STO rage and RET rieval, STORET is a repository for water quality, biological,

and physical data and is used by state environmental agencies, EPA and other federal agencies, universities, private citizens, and many others.

The Learn & Serve program at JAAT started with a 5 Star EPA grant "[Chipola River Restoration Project](#)" and has expanded to involving students in restoration of forest areas along the Chipola River, building habitat for endangered species, and water testing. In fall 2004, the school will begin loading data into the STORET system and is working on a partnership with US Fish and Wildlife to complete a water study on the entire Chipola River, a local river which is the major tributary to the Apalachicola River.

Pinellas County Service-Learning Practitioner Honored as Teacher of the Year

Thomas Murray of Pinellas County has been awarded the Secondary Teacher of the Year Award by The Florida Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Tom Hall, the President of the Tampa Chapter and an officer in the State and National organization presented the award to Mr. Murray at the state conference in Ft. Myers. He was awarded a large etched glass award plus \$500.00.

Mr. Murray also received the local SAM's CLUB Teacher of the Year Award for the Clearwater store. One of his students wrote the nomination. The award is a SAM'S red vest, a paper certificate and a \$1,000 check for the school.

Mr. Murray writes, "My teaching philosophy is get the students going and get out of the way."

Congratulations to Mr. Murray and his students!

3. Resources

Free New Tool for Youth Decision-Makers

Service, Leadership, and Money: A Financial Management Guide for Youth Decision-Makers, a recent publication from Youth Service America in collaboration with the National Endowment for Financial Education and State Farm Companies Foundation is now available to organizations, individuals and others! This publication is an educational tool for youth (and adults!) that can be used to teach young people about financial responsibility; familiarize young board members with the financial ins and outs of an organization; and addresses a young person's role as a member of an organization's Board of Directors. This publication has a five-year shelf life! The publication is FREE! However, we will need to charge a shipping cost for the quantity of booklets ordered. For more

information or a shipping estimate, contact Andrea Felix at 202-296-2992, x23 or afelix@ysa.org.

The National Youth Court Center and the OJJDP Release the First National Youth Court Directory

Youth Court has been in existence for over thirty-five years and are increasingly expanding and gaining support in communities, districts, and states across America. In 1994, there were only 78 programs in operation; as of April 2004, there are more than 950 programs in operation in 48 states and the District of Columbia. Several hundred jurisdictions are in various stages of establishing a Youth Court, and potentially thousands more will be established in the coming years. For more information on Youth Court, log on to www.youthcourt.net. A new web site has been established for Youth Court youth volunteers at: www.ycyouth.net. The national listing of youth courts by state can be viewed at: www.youthcourt.net/national_listing/overview.htm. For more information, contact Scott B. Peterson at the U.S. Department of Justice at: peterson@ojp.usdoj.gov.

The Youth Activism Project Releases New Activist Training Guide

The Youth Activism Project has a new youth leadership advocacy training resource by Wendy Lesko. Knock-Your-Socks-Off Training Teens To Be Successful Activists! The Complete Guide For Facilitating A 1-2 Hour Workshop outlines a script for every minute of the training yet it's a flexible module that can be tailored for different age groups. Participants will learn how other youths have been influential in pursuing community change and skill-based exercises will equip them with knowledge to design their own action plans. Adult or youth facilitators receive a 50-page binder which also includes handouts for participants plus a VHS tape with short TV clips that enhance this interactive workshop. Ninaj Raoul of the Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees says: "KNOCK-YOUR-SOCKS-OFF is very useful. I used the short version and plan to use it again. This training along with the video about young activists helped inspire our members of Haitian Youth Action to come up with their own projects and actions." To order (\$25 plus \$6 UPS), call 1-800-KID-POWER (800-543-7693) or <http://www.youthactivism.com/prodindex.php>

Check out their website for other inspiring publications:
<http://www.youthactivism.com/prodindex.php>

4. Funding Sources

Staples Foundation for Learning Grants

The Staples Foundation for Learning will award public schools and other community non-profits individual grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000 to fund a broad range of job training and education programs for disadvantaged youth and/or students with disabilities. All public schools and 501(c)(3) organizations in the United States are eligible to apply. Application Deadlines: 8/2/2004, 9/30/2004. Click <http://www.staplesfoundation.org/foundapplication.html> for more information.

Sol Hirsch Education Fund Grants

The National Weather Association will award grants of \$500 to individual K-12 teachers with proposals to educate their students in meteorology. Past recipients have used the funds to purchase scientific materials or equipment for the classroom, attend a relevant workshop or conference, or take an accredited course in atmospheric sciences. All K-12 teachers in the United States are eligible to apply. Application Deadline: 8/1/2004. Click <http://www.nwas.org/solhirsch.html> for more information.

Ezra Jack Keats Foundation Grants

The Ezra Jack Keats Foundation offers "mini-grants" of \$350 to school and public libraries for programs that encourage literacy and creativity in children. Programs that will be considered include innovative or noteworthy workshops, lectures and festivals, as well as programs targeted at parents and pre-school children. Special priority will be given to any programs relating to the work of Ezra Jack Keats. Applications forms are available online, and can be printed out and then mailed to the foundation. All K-12 schools and public libraries in the United States are eligible to apply. Application Deadline: 9/15/04. Click <http://www.ezra-jack-keats.org/programs/minigrants.htm> for information.

Braitmayer Foundation Grants

The Braitmayer Foundation offers grants of up to \$10,000 to fund a broad range of K-12 education programs, with a particular interest in curricular reform initiatives and professional development opportunities for teachers, particularly those encouraging people of high ability and diverse background to enter and remain in K-12 teaching. All K-12 schools in the United States, as well as independent 501(c)(3) organizations with an interest education, are eligible to apply. Application Deadline: 11/15/2004. Click <http://www.braitmayerfoundation.org/guid.htm> for more information.

Barbara Bush Foundation Grants

The Barbara Bush Foundation's 2005 National Grant Cycle will offer grants of up to \$65,000 to schools and other nonprofits to fund the development and/or expansion of literacy programs designed to build families of readers. Proposal components should include: reading instruction for parents or primary

caregivers, literacy or pre-literacy instruction for children, and intergenerational activities where parents and children learn and read together. All schools and other nonprofits that have operated literacy programs for 2 or more years are eligible to apply. See website for more eligibility details. Application Deadline: 9/10/04. Click <http://www.barbarabushfoundation.com/nga.html> for more information.

U.S. Department of Education Partnerships in Character Education Program

Look for an announcement in the Federal Register regarding a grant competition for the U.S. Department of Education -Office of Safe & Drug Free Schools - Partnerships in Character Education Program. To view currently available application packages, click

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/find/edpicks.jhtml?src=ln> to check ED's discretionary grant packages. The department is also seeking peer reviewers for this grant competition. For more information and to apply, visit the OSDFS Peer Review Website at: www.osdfspeerreview.org

Gannett Foundation

The Gannett Foundation, a corporate foundation sponsored by Gannett Co., Inc., serves local organizations in those communities in which Gannett Co., Inc. has a local daily newspaper or television station. The program makes contributions through grants and a matching gifts program to qualified nonprofit organizations to improve the education, health and advancement of the people who live in Gannett communities. The Foundation values projects which take a creative approach to such fundamental issues as education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment. Next application deadlines: August 15, 2004.

<http://gannettfoundation.org/>

Receive A \$5,000 BRICK Award from DOSOMETHING

The BRICK Awards, a program of Do Something, were created to recognize and financially support outstanding young people, to create a network of young community leaders across the United States, and to inspire other young people to become active in their communities. The program honors and funds the efforts of dynamic leaders age 18 and under who have devised and implemented innovative solutions to problems in their local communities in the areas of community building, health, and the environment. Each BRICK winner receives a \$5,000 higher education scholarship, a \$5,000 grant for continued community work, pro bono services, and other support and recognition. Applicants must be 18 years old or younger on April 14, 2005, to be eligible. For more information and to download an application form, visit: <http://dosomething.org/brick-awards.htm>.

Teaching Tolerance Grant Program

The Teaching Tolerance project of the Southern Poverty Law Center offers grants of up to \$2,000 to K-12 classroom teachers for implementing tolerance and youth activism projects in their schools and communities. Proposals from other educators such as community organizations and churches will be considered on the basis of direct student impact. Proposal deadline: ongoing. Click <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/expand/gra/guide.jsp> for more information.

Starbucks Foundation

Deadline: October 1 and April 1

Eligibility: \$5000 to \$20,000 to non profit, tax exempt 501c3, and charitable organizations

Areas of awards: school or community programs that complement or enhance literacy curriculum and encourage individuals to make one-on-one commitments to tutoring or mentoring needy children around reading and writing.

Contact Information: Starbucks Foundation, 2401 Utah Avenue South, S-SR-1, Suite 800, Seattle, WA 98134

In addition... each Starbucks store chooses a charity (usually focused on literacy and education, AIDS outreach, environmental awareness, and the arts.) to receive leftover pastries and past-date coffee as well as financial contributions. Starbucks stores donate coffee to events each month and pitch in for trash pickups and other community efforts. Each store is on a directive from the Starbucks Corporation to be open to approach about your community program such as a holiday food and clothing drive, book drives, tutoring and mentoring programs, park or river clean-ups.

Web site: www.starbucks.com/aboutus/grantinfo.asp

Robinson Mini-Grants

Constitutional Rights Foundation is now accepting applications for the 2004-2005 Robinson Mini-Grant Program. CRF's Robinson Mini-Grant Program honors the late Maurice R. ("Robbie") Robinson, founder of Scholastic, Inc. Each year, thanks to a generous grant from The Maurice R. Robinson Fund of New York City, CRF awards mini-grants of up to \$600 for K-12 service-learning projects designed to address serious community issues. For more information and the application go to: http://www.crf-usa.org/network/crf_robin.html. Deadline Oct. 15, 2004.