

TRASH Tree

A Waste Awareness Installation

Addressing K-12 Standards for Quality SL Practice

MEANINGFUL SERVICE:

- Students investigate how their waste impacts their lives and the lives of others.
- The project allows them to do something about needless waste in their area and share their findings with others so that change can happen in other communities as well.
- This project allowed students to have an opportunity to problem solve, work with a new group of people, use academic skills and concepts taught in the classroom, and are able to see the results of their work.
- Project builds personal awareness of an issue that will continue throughout their lives.
- They will make personal changes in behavior because of their research of the topic and awareness built from observing trash in public.

LINKS TO CURRICULUM:

- Impacts of various forms of trash on the environment (science).
- Creating design and constructing Trash Tree (engineering/art)
- Researching and analyzing statistics on waste (math)
- Writing and designing a brochure about issues of waste (language arts/technology)
- Understanding the impacts of waste on economies around the world (social studies)
- **For more ideas see our Trash Tree curriculum web**

REFLECTION:

- Opportunities for students to build model structures, reflect on their design, and improve for the life-size construction.
- Students analyzed the issue of waste and used various forms of reflection including art, writing, and pictures to create educational materials about the issue.
- Community partners worked with students to create an educational reflection video

DIVERSITY:

- Understanding that waste affects everyone, no one is immune to the devastating effects needless waste has on our environment.
- Investigating countries around the world and the impacts of waste in those countries.
- Students from various backgrounds working together.



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YOUTH VOICE:

- Students decide types of waste to focus on.
- Students design and present tree design to community professionals.
- Students create brochures, posters, and other educational materials of their choice.

PARTNERSHIPS:

- Local professionals in the field of construction, architecture and engineering to assist in designing and building the tree.
- Waste management agencies to provide background information and site visits to facilities.
- Organizations to donate un-claimed items at the end of the installation period.
- Other schools around the US or world who collect waste and create an installation.

PROGRESS MONITORING:

- Creating a timeline of the project to follow, and having students check in regularly to assess their progress.
- Ongoing check-in meetings to create lists of items that were accomplished and items that still needed to be done.

DURATION AND INTENSITY:

- Appropriate time frame is 30-50 hours, over at least 6 weeks so students can collect waste in a genuine way (from trash on street or other local sources).
- Connections can be made to all quality elements of service learning to ensure an experience that has true meaning and depth for students.



Original Trash Tree
created by MYX and NFCS
at the 2011 National
Service Learning
Conference in Atlanta,
Georgia.

For more info on the Trash
Tree Project visit:

www.TrashTree.com



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