

EXAMPLES OF ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP PROJECTS

“Souper Bowl” of Caring

A high school participated in the “Souper Bowl” of Caring active citizenship project. In the week before the Super Bowl game, students held a canned food and money drive and donated their collections to a local food bank. They took the donations there on the Saturday before the game and spent the morning working there to sort all of the food. February is an important time of year for food banks to receive donations because, after a big push for giving during the holiday season, they receive very few donations early in the year.

Active Citizenship Fair

Students at a middle school sponsored an all-day, school-wide active citizenship fair. Students invited community organizations and nonprofit groups to set up booths to inform students about volunteer opportunities. More than 1,000 students visited the fair, and 20 organizations participated, including Black Lives Matter, Anti-war Movement, Honoring Veterans and the Alliance for Climate Protection. Ninety-eight percent of students surveyed at the fair said they had a previous interest in many of the topics represented but needed more information.

Hitting the Books for Charity

High school students sponsored a read-a-thon benefit for juvenile diabetes. This school-wide fund-raising activity encouraged students to read, raised money to help researchers and provided an opportunity for students to earn active citizenship hours of credit.

Students collected pledges, read in the library for two hours after school and later returned to collect the donations. The event was open to all students. The local chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation presented the school with an award in recognition of the \$1,100 raised through the event.

Operation Sandbox/Shoebox

Students and student organizations organized a district-wide project called Operation Shoebox to gather items requested by deployed soldiers and aviators from the National Guard. The shoeboxes were filled with items such as lip balm, small bottles of glass cleaner, sunscreen, beef jerky, nuts and flavor packets. For service members’ downtime, students also included video games, books and board games in the boxes. By the end of the project, students had collected and delivered approximately 480 shoeboxes full of items.

Bundles of Love

Students from a high school’s student council held a blanket drive and made 35 blankets for Bundles of Love, a nonprofit organization that provides clothing, bedding and other necessi-

ties for infants. The local chapter gives out 25 baby blankets each month and regularly helps more than 60 clinics, agencies and hospitals. The local Wal-Mart donated the fabric for the blankets, which students made out of two pieces of overlapping fleece with the edges cut into strips and tied into knots.

Reducing Racial Stereotypes

Several students at a local high school organized an effort to reduce racial stereotyping and profiling of people of Middle Eastern descent. Their awareness campaign alerted students and the community to the problem. Organizers wrote a position paper to declare their concerns and goals. They then printed fliers summarizing the issue and possible remedies with a call for volunteers who felt the same way. They didn't get much response and are looking for better ways to get the word out.