

Kansas Sesquicentennial

**Service-Learning Opportunities &
Grant Application**

Provided By:

Kansas Volunteer Commission





About Kansas - Quick Facts

Birth Date: January 29, 1861, as the 34th state

Capital City: Topeka

Population: 2,688,418 (2000 - US census report that comes out every 10 years)

Largest Cities: Wichita, Kansas City, Overland Park, Topeka

Smallest Cities: Freeport, Oak Hill, Benedict, Frederick

Major Industries: Aircraft Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Education

Geographic Size: 82,282 square miles--ranked 15th in geographic size

Geographic Center of Continental US: Near Lebanon in Smith County

Highest Point: Mount Sunflower in western Kansas--4,039 feet

Lowest Point: The Verdigris River in southeast Kansas--680 feet

Time Zones: Mostly central time zone. Some counties in the far west portion of the State are in the mountain time zone.

Nickname: Sunflower State (unofficial nicknames: Wheat State, JayHawker State)

State motto: "Ad Astra Per Aspera" Latin for "To the stars through difficulty".

State Tree: Cottonwood, adopted 1937

State Flower: Native Sunflower, adopted 1903

State Bird: Western Meadowlark, adopted 1937

State Animal: The American Buffalo or Bison, adopted 1955

State Insect: The Honeybee, adopted 1976

State Reptile: The Ornate Box Turtle, adopted 1986

State Amphibian: Barred Tiger Salamander

State March: "The Kansas March," by Duff E. Middleton, adopted 1935

State Song: "Home on the Range," by Dr. Brewster Higley, adopted 1947

Kansas Sesquicentennial 2011 Service-Learning Toolkit

[K-12 Service-Learning Project Planning Toolkit \(free download\)](#)

What is service-learning:

Service-Learning 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.

An exciting, hands-on approach to education, service-learning is taking place in a wide variety of settings: schools, universities, and community-based and faith-based organizations throughout the country. The core concept driving this educational strategy is that by combining service objectives and learning objectives, along with the intent to show measurable change in both the recipient and the provider of the service, the result is a radically-effective transformative method of teaching students.

Key Elements when planning a service-learning event:

Authentic service-learning experiences, while almost endlessly diverse, have some common characteristics (taken mostly from Eyler & Giles, *Where's the Learning in Service-Learning?*, 1999):

- They are positive, meaningful and real to the participants.
- They involve cooperative rather than competitive experiences and thus promote skills associated with teamwork and community involvement and citizenship.
- They address complex problems in complex settings rather than simplified problems in isolation.
- They offer opportunities to engage in problem-solving by requiring participants to gain knowledge of the specific context of their service-learning activity and community challenges, rather than only to draw upon generalized or abstract knowledge such as might come from a textbook. As a result, service-learning offers powerful opportunities to acquire the habits of critical thinking; i.e. the ability to identify the most important questions or issues within a real-world situation.
- They promote deeper learning because the results are immediate and uncontrived. There are no "right answers" in the back of the book.
- As a consequence of this immediacy of experience, service-learning is more likely to be personally meaningful to participants and to generate emotional consequences, to challenge values as well as ideas, and hence to support social, emotional and cognitive learning and development.

Service-learning is *not*:

- An episodic volunteer program
- An add-on to an existing school or college curriculum
- Logging a set number of community service hours in order to graduate

- Compensatory service assigned as a form of punishment by the courts or by school administrators
- Only for high school or college students
- One-sided: benefiting only students or only the community

The distinctive element of service-learning is that it enhances the community through the service provided, but it also has powerful learning consequences for the students or others participating in providing a service. Service-learning is growing so rapidly because we can see it is having a powerful impact on young people and their development. It is a dynamic process, through which students' personal and social growth is tightly interwoven into their academic and cognitive development. According to scholars Eyler and Giles (1999), with the service-learning model "experience enhances understanding; understanding leads to more effective action."

Establish Partnerships:

Partner with Teachers: Other teachers are resources to incorporate curriculum across many subjects and age-levels. Consider making a presentation at an in-service or ask a fellow educator.

Community Partnerships: Establishing partnerships in the community is a way to garner support, resources and grow the service-learning element. Partners can be nonprofit organizations, service clubs, businesses and government offices. Community colleges and universities are also options. To find a partner first identify the purpose of the relationship, establish contact and then keep partners informed.

Parents as Partners: Often parents are involved in the school as a volunteer; they are also valuable resources for service-learning. They can contribute resources, information and ideas.

State Resources:

- Kansas State Library
- KSDE
- Kansas State Historical Society
- Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks
- Kansas Travel and Tourism

Funding Opportunities: www.kanserve.org

Learn & Serve Grants: Kansas Volunteer Commission, Deadline April 16, 2010

Learn & Serve mini-grant: Kansas Volunteer Commission, **Deadline November 1, 2010**

Service-learning ideas and projects:

History Fair: older students can research major projects in KS history and put together various sharing methods to educate other audiences (younger students, community members). Other resources to enhance such a fair: professionals that re-enact characters from history. Lewis and

Clark, Brown vs. Board, Fort Leavenworth, Ft. Riley Buffalo Soldiers. Then reflect on what they learned, interesting experiences and create a media format either short video, story or slides show.

Community History: work with community leaders and members to create as short video documenting the community's unique history. Can be done through interviews, research, field research. Share with community and put in library to share. Reflect on contribution, write follow-up letter to community and school paper. Reflection of the effect on the community as well as the service to others.

Sunflower State: Research the emblems of Kansas, meadow lark, buffalo, sunflower, etc. How did they become prevalent and what is their current role in the state. Plant a sunflower garden, harvest seeds and share during KS week celebration, do presentation of findings. Potentially, this can be done in a play format or video about the state's history.

Traveling Resource Trunks: the Kansas historical society has trunks with curriculum in them to learn about pieces of KS history this can be incorporated into the classroom with elements added to create a service-learning project. www.kshs.org

Lewis & Clark Trail: National Wildlife Refuges have historic and cultural resources that can be preserved and interpreted by students. One example is the Cathlapotle Plankhouse in Clark County, Washington, which is managed by a partnership among Portland State University, the Chinook Tribe, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. <http://www.plankhouse.org/>

Brown vs. Board of Education: The Education Department at Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site strives to provide quality curriculum-based resources and activities for educators and parents. Information is available related to the *Brown v. Board of Education* U.S. Supreme Court case, the Civil Rights Movement, education, African American history and cultural and social justice. Educational opportunities are available through distance learning, teacher's materials and lesson plans, ranger outreach programs and museum visits. <http://www.nps.gov/brvb/forteachers/index.htm>



Learn and Serve Kansas Kansas Sesquicentennial Request for Proposals 2010-2011

Application instructions: Please complete the following application and return to the Kansas Volunteer Commission by September 30, 2010. It can be mailed to 120 SE 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66612 or email joxandale@ksde.org. The maximum award amount is \$500.

Description of Project:		
Anticipated Impact to the Community:		
Celebration of Kansas Sesquicentennial:		
Community Partners:		
Number of Volunteers:		
Requested amount (Please attach an itemized budget):		
Other funding sources:		
Submitting application: Name	Email:	Phone Number:
Address:	School:	

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