

Personal Development: 7th - 9th Grade Series

Lesson 3: Finding Opportunities to Serve Others

Estimated Lesson Length:	Approximately 1, 50 minute class period
Recommended Grades:	7-9th
Related LifeKnowledge Lesson:	LifeKnowledge MS.59: Finding Opportunities for Service in Your Families, School and Community.
Objective(s): The student will be able to:	
✓ Identify the importance of service in personal growth ✓ Set goals to become service-orientated students	
Materials, Supplies, Equipment, References and Other Resources:	
3x5 cards, one per student; 4 large pieces of paper (for class posters);	



Lesson Plan:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
1. Interest approach	Yesterday, students worked on understanding what services that other people provide to them. Today we will start to focus on service opportunities that we can provide. To begin, hand each student a 3 x 5 card. On the front of the card, they need to write their name small at the upper right hand corner. Ask them once again to define service; in their own words (they did this in the previous lesson). Then ask them to identify situations that demonstrate a need of service (i.e. Hurricane Katrina, local producer loses wheat crop, etc.). These needs are things that other people could choose to assist with. They could be local needs or national needs. When they have five listed, check their answers, ask them to share their ideas with two other students and ask them to keep these cards until later.	5 minutes
2. Student research	Split the class into groups and have students work in pairs or triplets. Have students log into the internet and look for news articles from their local paper about young people doing community service projects. Have students summarize these pages and then report to the class on different projects developed by students their own age. Good examples can be found at the following web addresses, if students need assistance. http://volunteermatch.org/ http://www.learnandserve.org http://www.ffa.org/programs/natchap/documents/nca_cig2003.pdf (Community development ideas begin on pg. 22 of the FFA document).	20 minutes
3. Write up a personal service article	Each student will work individually on this step. Each student is to imagine that it is one year from now. They are each to write an article as though they have just (12 months from now) received the "Service Award" from the local civic organization. They are to write a news article highlighting their service (to their family, community, school, FFA chapter, and service work they do within organizations) and their reasons for receiving this award. The article should also focus on their reasons and philosophy for serving others. The article should be no less than one page, and should include pertinent components seen in most articles. If they have difficulties starting, have them refer to the collage (which should have service articles on it) that the class created on day 2.	20-30 minutes
4. Make service goals	The students should turn in their articles to you. When they are done, they should set three service goals which could help lead them	5 minutes

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Lesson Plan cont.:		
STEPS (What to Do)	Procedures (How to Perform the Step)	Time*
	toward achieving the statements they wrote about in their articles. These goals should be realistic and achievable. If the students have a difficult time beginning, have them think of the following statement, "What kind of service could I do that would allow me to be the recipient of the local "service award?" These goals should have their names on them and should be turned into you.	
5. Closure	Collect articles from students. If they did not complete the articles, please have them finish them as homework and bring them into you before school tomorrow. Thank the student for their good work and understanding of the importance of community service. To finish up the day, have students return to the five needs they listed at the beginning of the hour on the note card. Have them now identify five ways that they could help in these needs. They hopefully understand that there are a lot of ways that students can make a big difference in people's lives. Have them also turn in these note cards as the bell rings. Please then assign daily grades (as suggested on the information page) and write this on the attendance sheet. Submit attendance sheet to the office.	5 minutes