

READY Team Service Learning Project 2005 - 2009

Prevention service-learning activities include collaborating with community emergency response and other organizations to implement the KEYS (Keeping Everyone You Know Safe) program which focuses efforts on preventing motor vehicle crashes from impaired driving. This includes a pay-it-forward program to provide glow in the dark plastic keys to parents, siblings and others as a reminder to make wise choices when behind the wheel of a vehicle. Another example is to participate in community and school health fairs to promote safety and emergency preparedness. Youth will be provided opportunities to march in community parades with the READY trailer to promote injury prevention, safety, and community preparedness. Utilizing the technological skills of youth, READY participants will be encouraged to help the elderly members of their community to program their cell phones to include their ICE (In Case of Emergency) contact so that emergency responders will be able to contact someone in case they are not able to provide this information due to unconsciousness or other emergency conditions. Youth service-learning project examples will also include development of emergency kits or “Go Bags” for their school or underserved community members. Some of the kits can be simple and cost effective, yet provide needed resources in case they are faced with an emergency situation. Schools will invite youth trained in the READY Camp to serve their schools as participants on the Crisis Preparedness Team and attend school safety meetings. This includes providing input to the adult members of the team to create a positive and safe learning environment at their school. Through a partnership with the Project ADAM public access defibrillation (AED) program through the Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, youth will be offered the opportunity to collaborate with school officials to implement CPR and AED programs along with their local ambulance services. One example of this is a group of middle school students who had a classmate who collapsed during track practice of cardiac arrest. This group of girls worked with their local skating rink to implement an AED program in the memory of their classmate. They also implemented extension of their current school AED program to include sporting events and practices. Other examples of prevention activities include working with their local fire department to complete checks of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in the homes of elderly and underserved communities and assist with installation when there isn’t one in the home.

Educational service-learning activity examples include the development and distribution of community preparedness information, providing education to community groups and organizations about preparedness, and publishing articles in local media sources to promote safety. Youth will be encouraged to replicate the model developed by Chippewa Falls SERT team in creating safety games and activities to educate peers and younger students which align with modules of education learned at the READY Camp. Youth will be invited to staff the Wisconsin Statewide Volunteer booth at the State Fair and provide information to those who visit the vendor area. Those involved with organized groups such as 4-H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Girls Clubs, Boys Clubs and community organizations will be encouraged to incorporate projects related to lessons learned into displays and activities for those organizations and county fairs. Youth will be empowered to develop awareness campaigns in the memory of classmates or family members who have died or have been critically injured by risk-taking or other emergency situations. They will be invited to be volunteer participants in county and local emergency disaster drills. Some will have the opportunity to collaborate with local SWAT teams and hospital bioterrorism teams to act as victims in specific drills and scenario-based education.

Others will have the opportunity to work with Day Care Centers and Nursing Homes to promote safety and preparedness activities.

Response service-learning will include actually offering first aid and bystander care to those who are ill and injured within their community or school. READY participants with specific schools will be invited to serve on their “School Emergency Response Teams” and actually be paged through the intercom system to provide assistance to those who are ill or injured until further help arrives. Youth will have the opportunity to serve as leaders when practicing lock down, evacuation, and safety drills at their schools. They will be invited to participate in disaster response to help communities and citizens through fundraising and actually traveling to communities in need. This is organized through the READY administration in collaboration with county emergency management and volunteer response organizations. Participants will be invited to become involved in local search and rescue activities, specifically those in the very rural areas of Wisconsin since the need for volunteers has been identified. Youth will be invited to serve their community as first responders and provide water stations for events such as parades, walks, bicycle rides, triathlons, and runs.