

Appreciation and Reflection

Youth will reflect on the whole process of service learning. They will also show their appreciation by creating thank you cards for all!

Age Appropriateness:

All Ages

Key Topics:

Reflection,

Common Good

Skills:

Critical Thinking,

Visual Metaphor,

Community Value ,

Diversity,

Artistic Expression

Materials:

Crayons, paper, paint

Action Time:

1-2 hours

Resources:

The Thank You Book for Kids: Hundreds of Creative, Cool, and Clever Ways to Say Thank You by: Greg Foley

<http://ezinearticles.com>

OBJECTIVES

- Through reflection, youth will fully understand and appreciate their new playspace.
- Youth will create Thank You cards, notes and/or banners to be given to all those who helped make this playspace possible.



Discussion

How have the activities you've completed over the course of this project contributed to the common good? How did contributing to your community make you feel? How have the adults in your community contributed to the common good? As the youth answer this question, record the names of individuals and organizations and how they helped with the project on a flipchart.

Why do you think the adults participated in the playground build? How do their contributions make you feel? What are the ways in which you like to be appreciated for your contributions for the common good? How should we appreciate the volunteers who contributed to the common good?

Action

- Have the youth refer to the list of organizations and individuals that contributed to the project and divide up the list so that each child has at least one person for whom to create a thank you card. Each child needs one sheet of white, one sheet of construction paper and crayons/markers.
 - Have each child write a thank-you letter to the volunteers on one side of the white sheet of paper. Have the youth acknowledge how the volunteer helped with the project and include reasons why they are happy to have the new playground.
 - Have each child decorate one side of a piece of construction paper.
 - Glue the blank side of the white paper to the blank side of the construction paper, forming the Thank You card.
 - Develop a plan for distributing the thank you cards.
- Celebrate the individuals who contributed to this project including volunteers, youth, community leaders, etc.
 - Have a milk and cookies toast at the end of the Day of Service.

Reflection

Have the youth consider the ways in which they can apply the skills they have developed through this project to future community service activities. Some sample scenarios might include: organizing the clean-up of a local park, organizing a food drive for a local food bank, recruiting volunteers to play games with the elderly at a senior citizens center, and developing a peer tutoring program.