

Live Green

Recognition Program

After Action Report

Project Name: Treasure Our State-Go Green! (Malmstrom YP)

Number of Youth participated: 325

Length of Project: 4 hours-Chalk It Up!, Ongoing all summer-art, collection boxes, green staff and summer camp field trip shirts

How did your group/organization choose your service project? Did you identify two or three of the most important environmental needs facing your installation or community? The summer months throughout the Malmstrom YP had a very green feeling-literally! Everything we did was in green-staff shirts, papers, newsletters, projects, etc! To kick off the summer, the Malmstrom YP provided a program to the community entitled, "Chalk It Up!". The event includes sidewalk chalk art around the Youth Center, a BBQ and other fun family activities. This year the event included the theme of treasuring Montana. (Montana is called the Treasure State!) Youth and their families were asked to create a work of art that showed their "Green" pride for our state or the environment. (See attached photos)

As well as creating sidewalk art, youth were asked to recycle their toys and clothes. (This idea was driven by the youth.) During the event we had a donation center where all items could be dropped off. The toys and clothes that were collected were donated to a local shelter.

Another addition to the event was the presence of our Environmental Engineers from the base. The organizations included base recycling other members of CE Environmental. These organizations gave out valuable information regarding recycling and what the kids could do to "Go Green!"

Another activity that was conducted during the event was painting a large mural of native Montana animals. We ordered a large banner and encouraged the kids to help paint it when they were done with their own creation. (See Photo) The mural was a great time filler and it also got the kids to talk about the animals that live in our state and what we can do to keep them healthy.

By conducting all of these events, we addressed important environmental needs facing our community. First of all, Montana is known for being mountainous and green-we wanted to stress that point and keep our state looking that way. By looking at the art work that the kids created, the point was well received. Secondly, we got the buy-in from the kids as to what they wanted to do and they chose something that was close to them-their toys. Helping others and recycling at the same time-a win-win situation!

Other projects throughout the summer included a t-shirt contest, recycling bins, trash walk, 4-H gardening, guest speakers, field trips, art projects and of course using as much green as we could-from staff shirts to paper products we tried to visually use the theme as literally as we could to spread the message of "Going Green."

Describe challenges, if any, faced during your service project. The biggest challenge we faced was that our parking lot was under construction until two days before the Chalk It Up! event. It ended up working out to our advantage as the parking lot was SUPER clean for the event! As far as the other events, everything was easy to fulfill; yet rewarding. The weekly recycle art projects were meaningful, creative and educational-and we can't forget AWESOME! From making bird houses out of recycled materials to making a pen/pencil holder out of recycled materials the kids and staff had a great time creating useable art projects!

What resources, skills, or assets did you use to get your service project completed? Resources used included Base Environmental, the Emily Center where we donated the clothes and toys and of course the power of our kids!

Describe your group's long term goal or purpose in conducting your project? This event was the kick off of the entire summer of "Going Green" for our program. This event led to wearing green staff shirts, a t-shirt design contest about being earth friendly, weekly art projects that included recycled items, a trash walk, a "green garden", using less paper products, recycling ink cartridges and cell phones, special guest speakers and field trips around the area.

What does success look like for your project? Can it be measured? Is it attainable? Success=happy kids! The kids LOVE this event; even though it is a yearly event. (This was our second year with a theme) The kids practice their drawings weeks before the event and are so proud of their accomplishments!

Success=parent participation! We had nearly 100% parent participation for this event for our summer camp kids. The CDC brought over two groups of kids and they had a 1/1 ratio-Super!

Success=Corporate Sponsorship! We have a great sponsor who graciously donates their time and resources to this event! We enjoy seeing their enthusiasm each year and we are very grateful for their generosity!

How is all of this measured? By the kids and the community; they know that this is a unique event and they enjoy it every year. They drive us to always improve and be better the next year. (Like adding the theme and other events into it) As far as the message that was sent to the community through this event, it was evident that we promoted "Going Green" and this was a great way for the community to come together and learn about it! Is it attainable for us to keep the "Going Green" theme alive in our YP-Of Course! It already is-we have continued the theme and will continue to do so in our daily programming!

We also had a great outcome from our summer camp shirts. While the summer camp kids went on a field trip to the local minor league baseball stadium wearing their green "Protect Mother Earth" shirts, the General Manager and former White Sox player mentioned how he liked the shirts. He had his grounds people talk to the kids how they were going green in the stadium. He mentioned he was proud of our kids for taking care of the environment, how much he loved the shirts and provided all of the kids and their parents free admission if they wore their green shirts that night to the home game! During the game, the kids proudly displayed their shirts on the red carpet! The manager was presented a t-shirt from the YP and he proudly wore it all night!

Please use additional sheet for comments or suggestions. The categories that were incorporated included: Thinking outside the box=Chalk It Up!, T-Shirts, Education=Guest Speakers from MAFB Environmental and Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, recyclable art projects every Tuesday; Environmental=toy and clothing drive, recycling ink cartridges and cell phones, trash walk; Using resources=4-H gardening and Bug Club, and other educational web-sites that were displayed in the technology area throughout the summer. And even though we can't turn off the lights while the kids are in the building, this is a practice that the YP staff has practiced for years! This program definitely qualifies for special recognition!