

Leisure Time Activities

Steve Culbertson

Youth Service America

www.YSA.org

Global Youth Service Day

www.GYSD.org

www.UN.org/youth

“The importance of leisure time activities in the PSYCHOLOGICAL, COGNITIVE, and PHYSICAL development of young people is recognized in all societies. Leisure time activities include games, cultural events, entertainment, and community service.”

PSYCHOLOGICAL

- “Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve” M.L. King
- Inclusion into adult society
- Youth whose lives stop at the classroom door live in very safe, narrow little worlds, yet civilization needs their lives to be “bigger”!

COGNITIVE

The top five skills that multi-national corporations say they need from young people entering the workforce:

- Teamwork
- Responsibility
- Problem Solving
- Communications
- Professional Ethics

PHYSICAL

- An epidemic of obesity is compromising the lives of millions of children in the developed world.
- Food shortages in the developing world are creating food tsunamis.
- Nature deficit disorder: safe regimented activity is replacing imaginative outdoor play with negative health consequences.

John Gardner

“Much education today is monumentally ineffective. All too often we are giving young people cut flowers when we should be teaching them to grow their own plants.”

DROP-OUT PREVENTION

- 1:3 American High School Students will drop out before graduation
- The primary reason is boredom and disengagement with the educational process.
- Service-Learning links academics with authentic community service, making school relevant and treating youth as assets and resources.

TERRORISM RECRUITS

- Unemployment rates for young people, particularly in low-wealth communities and in the developing world are astronomical.
- Of the billions of people who live on less than US \$2 a day, half are under 25.

Youth are *not* the hope of the future

If you don't
have a youth
strategy, you
don't have a
strategy at
all!

- Corporations
- Governments
- NGOs
- Multi-lateral organizations
- Schools
- Congregations of Faith