

LHHS NHS Day of Service 2013

By Ginny Sautner

English Teacher, Lake Havasu High School

Last year, the executive board of Lake Havasu High School's National Honor Society and their advisor, Ginny Sautner, sat down and brainstormed ways to make a true difference in their school and community. The board wanted to do something impactful: something BIG. What came from those brainstorming sessions was Day of Service. Last year, National Honor Society led the entire 500-student freshman class of Lake Havasu High School in a single day of city-wide service projects.



Ginny Sautner.

This year, the club included over 1,000 students. The freshmen and sophomore classes were led in twenty-six different projects throughout the city by members of LHHS's only merit-based service organization, National Honor Society.

The 120 members of NHS divided into teams to address an area they believed needed improvement, and then collaborated with a community member to achieve real results. This year's twenty-six projects were organized over the course of several months and carried out on March 14th when nearly 1,000 students swept the community to do good. They could be found at the school itself, renovating the cross-country course, painting the bleachers, updating the entryway landscaping, creating care packages for battered women's shelters, and writing letters to Sandy Hook. Off campus groups coordinated beach clean-ups, elementary school field days, the addition of park benches and trees on the island, visits to assisted-living homes, and renovations to Havasu for Youth's new Fusion Teen Center. The students thought broad and wide, seeking to impact youth to elderly, local to global, and our school itself to the far reaches of the community.

An excellent real world exercise for these future leaders, they brainstormed their own tasks, and

then executed their ideas into reality. Instead of just participating in a project, they themselves created opportunities for others to participate. This was a key idea of Day of Service. NHS students wanted those who might not normally contribute to share in this day of success, proving that providing service is just as important as receiving it.

Upon completion, students debriefed with their team leaders, discussing the importance of service. LHHS students made their personal remarks on giant puzzle pieces. One student stated, "I didn't realize doing something for someone else would make me feel so happy" and "Service is hard, but worth it". The individual pieces connected into one enormous and influential Day of Service puzzle. Then it was time to celebrate. Students were provided lunch, generously donated from Panda Express and Little Caesars.



Day of Service was hard work, but the rewards were many. NHS students learned real world leadership skills by organizing and executing their own projects. LHHS students, who might otherwise not have participated, were given the opportunity to feel a part of something bigger than themselves. On this single day a variety of improvements, both large and small, were made across the community. Day of Service adheres to the ideal that while someone may not be able to do everything, everyone can do something.

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