

Education Programs

Real Service. Real Learning.



Presented by



State FarmTM

Major Sponsors:



*Oregon Department of
Education*



*Weyerhaeuser
Company Foundation*



Additional Support:

John Gray Charitable Fund of the
Oregon Community Foundation
Juan Young Trust

The Swigert Foundation
Warn Industries
Washington County 4-H Leaders Association



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Service Learning and SOLV.....	page 3
Student Involvement.....	page 4
Education Sponsors.....	page 4
R-Oregon.....	page 5
Make It Right.....	page 6
Down By the Riverside.....	page 7
INTEL-SOLV Clean and Green.....	page 8
Equipo Verde.....	page 9

Service-Learning and SOLV

"I loved the chance to have people come out and teach us how to do something to help better our school. I didn't have to participate in this project, but I am very glad I did, for the fact that I learned stuff that I didn't know and I learned a lot about teamwork."

- Student Reflection, Miller Education Center-East, Hillsboro

SOLV encourages civic engagement through service-learning - a teaching and learning strategy that gives students a "real-world" context for their education, linking meaningful service to the community with school-based academic goals. Through SOLV's K-16 education programs, Oregon students are challenged to join in SOLV's mission of building stronger communities through volunteer action.

Our educational materials help students meet the following five essential elements of service-learning.

Students:

- ▶ Assess their community, in order to address real community needs;
- ▶ Connect service to school-based academic learning;
- ▶ Reflect purposefully on the connection between the service activity, their academic goals, and their own lives;
- ▶ Demonstrate and celebrate the contributions of all participants;
- ▶ Evaluate their accomplishments and the processes they followed.



After learning about the importance of water quality monitoring, Equipo Verde students sample for macroinvertebrates at Council Creek in Cornelius.

Student Involvement

SOLV's Education program demonstrated significant success in 2008-09:

- ▶ In 27 of Oregon's 36 counties, 165 student projects were completed.
- ▶ Out of 17,900 volunteers for SOLV's annual *Down By The Riverside* cleanup and enhancement event, over 7,900 were students.
- ▶ Out of 3,300 volunteers for the annual *INTEL-SOLV Clean & Green Project*, over 1500 were students.
- ▶ SOLV's education program staff addressed more than 450 educators, students, and community partners in service-learning trainings, workshops, and conferences.
- ▶ Nearly \$6,500 was distributed in reimbursement mini-grants to support student-led service-learning projects.

These opportunities were made possible through support from our generous sponsors. Oregon's students, educators, and SOLV thank each of them for their commitment to the future of Oregon communities and their youth.

Education Sponsors

Presenting Education Sponsor:
State Farm Insurance Companies

Major Education Sponsors:

Intel
Nike
Oregon City School District
Oregon Department of Education
Oregon Department of Transportation
Starbucks Foundation
The Standard
The Ford Family Foundation
Weyerhaeuser Company Foundation

Additional Support:

John Gray Charitable Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
Juan Young Trust
Oregon Jewish Community Youth Foundation
The Swigert Foundation
Washington County 4-H Leaders Association
Warn Industries

K-6 Elementary Projects and Resources

R-Oregon

R Oregon is a step-by-step planning guide designed to help elementary grade students “Read” their community and plan how they can help improve it; “Research” their service project and connect it to what they are learning in the classroom; “Reflect” on what they are learning about themselves and about working with others during the project; “Recognize” their success and thank everyone who helped; and “Report” on their accomplishments. Project-funding reimbursement grants of up to \$100 per project are available.

Project Highlights:

Farmington View Elementary, Beaverton, OR

The school has partnered with Jackson bottom Wetlands which the school backs up to, to create an observation garden to watch and track wildlife. These activities are integrated with the science curriculum at the school and the area will be used as an outdoor classroom. Students and staff cleaned up 2200 sq ft of mixed waste including wire, concrete, plastic, metal objects, than created and planted a raised garden bed.

Richmond Elementary School, Portland, OR

Each Friday, starting in mid March, the Richmond 5th graders took part in a composting program. Students learned how composting works and how it reduces the waste created by the school. They collected all the fruit and vegetable food scraps in the lunchroom, and started a worm composting bin. The compost was then used on the school garden.

Gates Elementary, Gates, OR

As part of their science curriculum, fourth grade students learned about the birds in their area. The students then constructed 8 birdhouses using mostly hand tools, and installed them on a local nature trail owned by the school district.



Elementary School students plant flowers to beautify their school.

Middle and High School Projects and Resources

Make It Right

Make It Right is a service-learning program designed to be initiated, developed and implemented by middle or high school students with adult guidance. Students, with the help of a comprehensive planning guide, are invited to undertake projects in their school or surrounding community in order to enhance, restore or clean up their environment and to involve others – students and adults - to make a difference. Students learn to identify community needs, set goals, recruit volunteers, plan a media campaign, develop a project budget, and seek funding. Project-funding grants of up to \$100 per project are available.

Project Highlights:

El Programa Hispano Cesar Chavez Day Project, Gresham, OR

Students spent the week learning about watershed restoration and the legacy of service created by Cesar Chavez. Students learned how to identify native plants and non-native invasive plants. Students tested the water quality of a local stream, removed litter surrounding the stream, and removed invasive plants. The culmination of the week was a student-led restoration event including family members and community volunteers. The volunteers planted over 100 native trees to help restore the stream.

Liberty High School, Hillsboro, OR

A leadership student organized her fellow students to remove invasive species from a wetland behind the school. The student recruited volunteers, gathered tools, and taught other students about invasive species and the damage they have caused to the wetland area. The students removed over 1000 pound of invasive plants.

International School of Beaverton, Beaverton, OR

Students cleaned up the school grounds, picking up trash, weeding, planting flowers, and making bird houses. Students learned a lot about the environment. Learned that bird houses cannot be painted inside because it can hurt the birds also learned that different animal require different entrances to their houses.



High School students remove weeds from a native plant garden behind their school.

K-12 Projects and Resources

Down By the Riverside and Take Care of Oregon Days

SOLV's thirteenth annual *Down By the Riverside* event was part of *Take Care of Oregon Day's* a volunteer event celebrating Oregon's 150th Birthday. Take Care of Oregon Days encouraged students statewide to connect with their communities by uniting around the common cause of service. SOLV partnered with Rural Development Initiative, Oregon Volunteers and Oregon 150 to provide curriculum and project support to engage more than 7,900 students in 98 service-learning projects in 63 Oregon communities.

Project Highlights:

Driftwood Elementary School, Port Orford, OR

Students began their project by learning about wetland restoration and invasive plants. Students then joined with community members to remove over 12,000 pounds of invasive plants. A student shared in her reflection piece, "I grew because I learned new things, like what invasive plants are and how to get rid of them".

Athena Elementary School, Athena, OR

Students planted trees, removed weeds, and picked up trash in their community. Students learned the importance of taking responsibility for their community and the damage litter and invasive plants can cause to the environment. One student told a reporter, "Every day is Earth Day, not Just Earth Day. You can make the Earth better and the environment better."

Destinations Academy, Coos Bay, OR

Students removed invasive species and repaired fencing around the Coos Watershed Association's Matson Creek native plant nursery. Students also prepared the site for transplants and nursery production. Students repaired fencing destroyed by an elk herd. Student volunteers created a sled out of an old gate to transport blackberry vines to a dumping site. The students are planning on "adopting" the nursery to maintain it. Students will take a college course in Natural Resources and/or landscaping/habitat in the fall. Work will continue on restoration projects over the summer.



Middle School students cut and dig invasive plants near a stream.

K-12 Projects and Resources

INTEL-SOLV Clean & Green Project

Through the INTEL-SOLV Clean and Green Project, SOLV provided teachers with service-learning training, curriculum and project support for 13 student projects in Washington County and East Multnomah County. These projects engaged more than 1500 students in planting native gardens and trees, removing invasive plants, and cleaning up litter around the school grounds.

Project Highlights

Miller Education Center-East, Hillsboro, OR

Students partnered with Intel volunteers to improve natural habitat areas and beautify sections of a park. Students learned about the problems associated with invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry. The students and Intel volunteers removed over 600 pounds of invasive plants. Instructor Naomi Brown told a reporter, "By working on SOLV projects, the Connect Program and Miller Education Center students have an opportunity to be involved with the community on a project that they can feel proud of and have ownership in"

Whitford Middle School, Beaverton, OR

260 students were introduced to the Science of watershed restoration, and then worked to remove 4,000 pounds of invasive blackberry vines from the woods behind their school. They documented their work with both a video and digital camera, to enable them to monitor the continual progress of their ongoing restoration project.

Valley Catholic High School, Beaverton, OR

Students learned about the importance of healthy watersheds and the differences between native and invasive plants. Students then planted and tagged 50 new plants, removed blackberry and picked up trash at a SOLV restoration site behind their high school.



Students prepare to plant native shrubs at a restoration site.

Equipo Verde

Equipo Verde – “Green Team” - is designed to engage Latino high school youth in ongoing watershed restoration activity. Partnering with the Intel 4-H Tech Wizards program, *Equipo Verde* introduces students to the three-part restoration cycle of assessment, restoration and monitoring. Specific academic goals in science, mathematics, communications, and technology are combined with leadership skills, to help students meet Oregon's new high school graduation requirements. Students also are asked to outreach to their families and community, demonstrating their new skills and knowledge by leading a restoration event.

Project Highlights

The program engaged students in planting more than 450 trees and shrubs, contributing more than 500 hours of service. Students were also engaged in monitoring and maintaining their newly-planted trees and shrubs, as they learned the importance of water quality and biodiversity in the riparian habitat. At the conclusion of the school year, students prepared and delivered a PowerPoint presentation about their involvement with the program, sharing their experience with their friends and families during a graduation ceremony.



Equipo Verde students remove invasive Himalayan Blackberry along Council Creek in Cornelius as part of Earth Day.

Education Programs

Real Service. Real Learning.

Program Description

SOLV's K-12 education programs and curricula involve students in service-learning, integrating meaningful service to the community with academic learning. SOLV offers Oregon educators and students service-learning training, curriculum, project planning guides, and project assistance including materials and small reimbursement grants.

Service-learning gives students a "real world" extension to their classroom education, and helps them build a lifelong connection to their community. SOLV's educational materials are designed for use by teachers and students throughout Oregon. All materials include alignments to the Oregon Department of Education K-12 academic standards and new diploma requirements.



SOLV builds community through volunteer action to preserve this treasure called Oregon.

As Oregon's largest non-profit volunteer organization, SOLV provides over 50,000 volunteer opportunities annually. SOLV volunteers and projects benefit more than 250 communities throughout Oregon each year. Your tax-deductible contribution can support SOLV's programs.

5193 NE Elam Young Parkway, Suite B, Hillsboro, OR 97124
503-844-9571 / 800-333-SOLV
www.solv.org