



It's our nature to volunteer.

SOLV EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Real Service. Real Learning.

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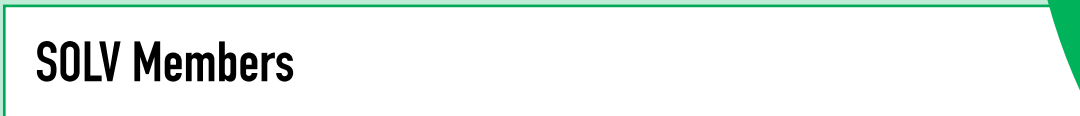


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Students protect native trees and shrubs from non-native invasive plants at Ryland Park in Cornelius.



SERVICE-LEARNING AND SOLV

“After working with SOLV I have changed because I now know the importance of taking care of the environment. Also, how doing something, no matter how big or small, can impact the environment, whether good or bad. .”

— Student Reflection, Rachel Carson Middle School, Beaverton

SOLV encourages civic engagement through service-learning - a teaching and learning strategy that gives students a “real-world” context for their education, linking meaningful environmental 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 bringing Oregonians together to improve the environment and build a legacy of stewardship.

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.



A student in Hood River spreads mulch around recently planted native shrubs. This mulch helps provide nutrients for the plants as well as protecting against invasive non-native plants, and helping to retain moisture.



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT

SOLV's Education program demonstrated significant success in 2010-2011:

- ▶ In 22 of Oregon's 36 counties, 277 environmental service-learning projects were completed
- ▶ Out of 7,600 volunteers for SOLV's annual SOLVIT Earth Day event, over 3,500 were students
- ▶ SOLV's education program staff addressed more than 1,450 educators, students and community partners in trainings, workshops and conferences
- ▶ Nearly \$3,500 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.

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The youngest members of SOLV's Green Team, these students from King Elementary in Oregon City are ready to install live Willow Stakes to help restore Abernethy Creek.



PROJECT OREGON PROJECTS

PROJECT OREGON

Project Oregon provides students with the opportunity for on-the-ground learning as they enhance their community and the environment. SOLV supports environmental projects anywhere in the state and anytime during the year through this program. Project-funding reimbursement grants of up to \$100 per project are available.



Members of the Portland Rose Festival court remove invasive English ivy from a park in West Linn. These students learned the importance of restoring native habitat and the damage non-native invasive plants can cause to our environment prior to beginning their work.

Project Highlights:

Cannon Beach Tolovana Beach Cleanup

A student from Astoria High School organized a beach cleanup in Cannon Beach for his senior project. The student recruited volunteers, provided educational information about marine debris, and successfully led a group of youth and adults in removing 200 pounds of trash from the beach. The student learned important leadership skills during the project, while protecting marine wildlife from the dangers of plastics and other trash.

North Bend: Pony Creek Restoration Project

The Coos Watershed Association provided in-class education about the restoration project and the local watershed before students prepared an area for planting native trees and shrubs. The students removed non-native invasive plants, collected trash, and monitored previously planted native plants.

Portland: Oregon Episcopal School Camille Park Restoration Day

Students from Oregon Episcopal School in Portland teamed up with Middle School students at Whitford Middle School to remove non-native invasive plants from Camille Park. The Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District provided an introduction to the site and how to remove invasive plants. The high schools students then led the middle school students and helped them to clear 3000 square feet of invasive English ivy.



OREGON ADOPT-A-RIVER PROJECTS

Oregon Adopt-A-River

A partnership between SOLV and the Oregon State Marine Board, the *Oregon Adopt-A-River Program* supports individuals, students, schools, and organizations in cleaning and preserving their favorite stretch of waterway (river, lake or stream) anywhere in the state of Oregon, while focusing on watershed health and a good stewardship ethic. The commitment is for 2 years doing at least 2 cleanups per year. Many volunteers do much more!

Project Highlights:

Grants Pass: Rogue River Fall Cleanup

The students at Grants Pass High School first adopted the Rogue River between the Water Treatment Plant and the Sports Park in early 2010. In November, students collaborated with members from our high school's MECHA club to collect trash along our stretch of the Rogue River. 18 students removed close to 100 pounds of trash from the riverbank.

“Students read the poster about trash and where it goes before we got all suited up to go pick up trash. They were enthusiastic about learning the facts and I think understood more about why they were doing what they were doing once we got outside. We spent about 30 minutes scouring the whole outside of the school. They ended up picking up 22 lbs of trash! I was so proud of them. Some of them were actually protesting that we stop!

–Stephanie Barnard, Alder Elementary SUN School Coordinator



Proud students show off their accomplishments after picking up trash from Rock Creek in Hillsboro.



SOLV IT PROJECTS

SOLV IT

In celebration of Earth Day people from all over Oregon rolled up their sleeves to give back to their state and improve the environment of Oregon. During the weeks before and after Earth Day, SOLV helped students and teachers implement a service-learning project to make Oregon a better place for all of us to live.



Members of the West Salem High School Student Watershed Council remove non-native invasive Scotch Broom and Himalayan Blackberry from the school's bioswales.

Project Highlights:

Salem: West Salem High School Student Watershed Council

The West Salem High School Environmental Science classes spent the morning removing non-native invasive Scotch broom and Himalayan blackberry from the school's bioswales. Three full truckloads of debris and two broken shovels made a world of difference! The students did a great job and were able to learn first hand how bioswales help manage and filter stormwater in addition to learning how to work as a team.

Hood River: Hood River Valley High School Center for Alternative Learning Indian Creek Restoration Project

For the past few years students have acted as stewards to maintain this area of Indian Creek. Students have learned about native and invasive plants and the process of watershed restoration. This year, the students weeded around native plants, removed Himalayan blackberry, Knapweed, and other invasive plants, and removed trash from around the creek. The students made a huge difference in helping the natives survive.

Nyssa: Nyssa High School Native Plant Garden

Students learned about the importance of native plants as they created a native plant demonstration garden at their school. Earlier in the year, the students went on a field trip to the botanical gardens in Boise to conduct research about what plants were native to this region, from which they based their selections. They also designed the garden's layout and wrote a proposal, which they presented to both school district administrators and the School Board for approval.



GREEN TEAM

GREEN TEAM

Green Team is a year long service-learning program which engages K-12 science classes throughout the Portland Metro area in stream and wetland enhancement projects. Each school adopts a different stream, as close to their school as possible in their own community and visit the site at least three times during the school year. Students learn the basics of watersheds, threats to watershed health, impacts of land use, stream restoration techniques, restoration design, vegetation and water quality monitoring, and native plant identification through on-site hands-on activities and related in-class activities.



Rachel Carson Environmental Middle School students flag plants which will be planted by their classmates at Willow Creek in Beaverton.

Project Highlights

This school year, the Green Team program provided 7,793 student volunteer and training opportunities to students in 60 classrooms in the Portland Metro area. SOLV provided 193 Green Team sessions. Students removed 19,800 pounds of invasive plants from local waterways. Students replaced the invasive plants with 5,820 native trees and shrubs which will provide shade, erosion control, and enhanced habitat for urban streams. Students maintained their native plants with mulch, 1,100 beaver cages, and 3,360 coffee bags.



Green Team students from Clackamas High School learn how to identify native plants from SOLV Jesuit Volunteer Corps Member, Miles Griffin. The students worked throughout the year to restore Rock Creek in Clackamas.

SOLV 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 supplies 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 diploma requirements.

Education Staff

Quintin Bauer, Education Program Coordinator
Meghan Ballard, Green Team Program Coordinator

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.

SOLV brings Oregonians together to improve the environment and build a legacy of stewardship.

You can support SOLV programs by making a tax-deductible contribution.

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