

What the Skokie D.A.Y. applicant needs to do:

Complete the Skokie D.A.Y. application (enclosed or available at www.skokie.org) indicating hours of participation.

Submit an essay of 300-500 words describing the experience (i.e. in 300-500 words tell how you helped another or other in our community, different from you, explaining how it was meaningful to you). Each essay will be evaluated on how well it addresses such topics as:

- How you increased your understanding of differences in cultures, religions, ages, socio-economic levels, family structures, physical abilities, and/or educational backgrounds.
- Social challenges associated with discrimination you identified.
- Respect and appreciation gained for cultural differences and/or differences in abilities.
- Effort made to bridge differences to eradicate some form of discrimination.

The essay must be solely and exclusively your work. Essays must be suitable for public distribution or display. Participation in the Skokie D.A.Y. Initiative gives permission to the Village to publish the material submitted; however, the applicant retains the copyright. Entries become the property of the Village, and will not be returned to applicant.

All entries must be submitted to the Human Services Division Office by 4 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2010.

Send or bring entries to Maureen DiFrancesca
Human Services Division - Village of Skokie
5120 Galitz, Skokie, IL 60077

Recognition and Awards:

Entries will be reviewed by a panel assembled by the Human Relations Commission, Education Committee and awards will be determined based on the written essay. Recognition and honors will be given at the 2010 Festival of Cultures to students and schools for participation in the D.A.Y. initiative. Depending on the number of entries, up to three winners (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) will be selected for each grade level. Each winner will receive an official certificate from the Village of Skokie. **Awards will be presented on the last day of the Festival of Cultures, Sunday, May 16, 2010. Winning entries may be displayed in the Skokie Public Library.**

Give your time. Make a difference. Do it all in a D.A.Y.

Village of Skokie Human Relations Commission



*Youth Community
Service Recognition for
Skokie High School Students*

***D**iversity **A**ction by **Y**outh*

2009-2010

*See What a Difference a
D.A.Y. Makes!*

**“The purpose of human life is to serve and show
compassion and the will to help others.”**

- Albert Schweitzer

See What a Difference a D.A.Y. Makes!

Dear Skokie Youth:

At school or in your neighborhood, do you have to go very far to see the diversity of our village? Skokie is a village filled with a diversity of cultures, religions, ages, socio-economic levels, family structures, physical abilities, educational backgrounds and more. And some of those who are different from you need your help. Can you give just a D.A.Y.? The Skokie D.A.Y. (Diversity Action by Youth) Initiative is your opportunity to volunteer for a minimum of 24 hours with someone or a group of people who differ from you in some way. You choose whom. You choose what. Then tell us about it. We will recognize you for these efforts at the Skokie Festival of Cultures in May 2010. Keep reading to see what a difference a D.A.Y. can make!

Sincerely,

The Education Committee of the Village of Skokie's
Human Relations Commission

The Village of Skokie Human Relations Commission (HRC), Education Committee is dedicated to increasing cultural awareness through diversity education, and by administering programs aimed at Skokie youth to promote goodwill and understanding among the people of the community. The HRC seeks to help bridge these differences by opening up communication and sharing experiences; promoting acceptance and respect; moving beyond simple tolerance to embracing and celebrating the rich dimensions of diversity contained within each individual.

Purpose:

The goal of this initiative is to show the value of diversity and to promote cultural awareness through volunteer work performed by Skokie's high school students that addresses unmet needs in the community.

Rules and Procedures:

Applicant must be a Skokie resident; or enrolled in a Skokie school. Eligible grades are 9 through 12. Applications are limited to one entry per person. **Applicant must perform a minimum of 24 hours of community service related to helping someone or a group that is different from you. Eligible activities are ones that engage you directly with a person or group of people who are different from you.**

Examples of activities that would qualify include:

- Read a book to a younger child, a sight impaired person or an older neighbor.
- Make and personally deliver get well cards for people in hospitals and convalescent homes.
- Conduct a clothing repair or sewing workshop for needy people.
- Work in an adult daycare center.
- Distribute food to clients at a food pantry.
- Prepare and serve food at a shelter or soup kitchen.
- Work at an immigrant welcome center.

The services you perform may be at more than one location and may occur over more than one day. The key is that the activities should involve helpful interaction with a person or people who are different from you. Examples of activities that do not qualify (because you are not interacting with people different from you) include: dog walking, mowing the lawn or shoveling the walk for your neighbor; baby sitting for a relative; cleaning up litter; visiting your own relative in a nursing home or stocking shelves in a food pantry.

If you have any questions about what may or may not be an eligible activity, please contact Maureen DiFrancesca, Human Services Division 847/933-8208 or visit www.skokie.org.

Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love...
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.