

2017 SPRING YOUTH SERVICE DAY HANDBOOK



"Enlisting young people in community service is one of the most important tasks we face as we enter a new century. As we look back on the (last) century - as we contemplate two world wars, the great Depression, the struggle for civil rights and other grave national trials - we cannot help but be struck by how much our nation's youth have sacrificed to give us the America we have today. We have a solemn obligation to preserve the rich heritage they have bequeathed to us. That obligation includes preparing today's young people to be worthy heirs of these earlier generations. By teaching young people the joys of service to others, we make good citizenship a vital, transforming and continuing aspect of our national character."

— General Colin L. Powell, founder of America's Promise

Dear Brothers,

Thank you for taking the initiative to learn and participate in one of Alpha Phi Omega's larger national service efforts. Spring Youth Service day (SYSD) allows us to make a vast impact on thousands of people; including developing you as a servant leader and the individuals your effort directly benefits. This national service event also provides you and your brothers an opportunity to work alongside our national partner, Youth Service America. Since 2001, our participation in Youth Service America's Global Youth Service Day has given us a renewed resolve to fulfill Frank Reed Horton's dream that Alpha Phi Omega would make the world a better place, particularly through service to "the youth of all nations." Brothers from every chapter of our fraternity are asked to participate annually in SYSD by planning an event that helps advance APO's goal to serve those of all walks of life.

It is through Global Youth Service Day that we join not only with brothers from across our nation, but with those who participate in a world-wide day of service. This movement now includes projects that serve more than a million youth in over 100 countries. During SYSD 2016, over 330 chapters completed nearly 25,000 hours of service.

We challenge you to maximize the resources of your chapter to plan a project that:

- Addresses the needs of youth in your community
- Utilizes your chapter strengths and desires for service
- Mobilizes and supports youth on a lifelong path of leadership and service
- Educates the public about the contributions of APO and young people in the community as servant leaders

Self-evaluation of ourselves and our chapter's efforts is essential to ensure we provide service that satisfies the greater needs of our communities. Now is the time as our fraternity moves forward from our 90th anniversary as an organization and close in on a century of service across our nation.

We ask that chapters strive for 100 percent participation among active members. In order to help you succeed, we invite you to use this handbook. Don't forget you can always draw on the experience of your local sectional, regional and national volunteers.

In order to assist the Fraternity, we request that you use the Officer Portal to report your project. If your chapter does not complete a project during SYSD weekend, please report another youth-serving project that your chapter has completed during the semester. A non-participation report is still required.

We personally thank you for all your hard work in making this, the sixteenth SYSD, in our fraternity's 91st year, the most successful yet.

In Leadership, Friendship and Service

Chad Briesacher

Chad Briesacher
SYSD Chair

David Amelotti

David Amelotti
National Service Chair

SPRING YOUTH SERVICE DAY PARTNERS AND RESOURCES

Alpha Phi Omega first made a commitment to become a part of Youth Service America's National Youth Service Day in 2001 (now Global Youth Service Day). Our involvement helps us meet part of the commitment we make to America's Promise, the "Network for Youth" founded by General Colin Powell (Ret).

GLOBAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY (GYSD)

www.ysa.org or www.gysd.org

Global Youth Service Day gets young people involved in service and calls attention to the impact that youth service makes on the public. GYSD is organized by Youth Service America (YSA) and includes more than 100 countries and millions



Global Youth Service Day

of young people worldwide. Projects are organized by communities, schools, and local organizations. Global Youth Service Day is an opportunity to recruit the next generation of volunteers while promoting the benefits of youth service to the public.

AMERICA'S PROMISE

www.americaspromise.org

America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth, founded by General Colin L. Powell (Ret), is mobilizing people from every sector of American life to build the character and competence of our nation's youth by fulfilling Five Promises for young people:

1. Ongoing relationships with caring adults in their lives — parents, mentors, tutors or coaches;
2. Safe places with structured activities during non-school hours;
3. Healthy start and future;
4. Marketable skills through effective education; and
5. Opportunities to give back through community service.



These Five Promises contain the seeds for a national movement capable of advancing the health and wellbeing of the next generation. We all must take responsibility and get involved to make this a reality.

Alpha Phi Omega has made a national commitment to America's Promise's national service program by continuing our strong tradition of youth service, and also by participating in National Youth Service Day annually.

IMPORTANT SYSD INFORMATION

Start planning early to participate in SYSD 2017.

SPRING YOUTH SERVICE DAY DATES:

APRIL 21-23, 2017

SPRING YOUTH SERVICE DAY REPORTS DUE:

MAY 1, 2017

REPORTING SPRING YOUTH SERVICE DAY

Your chapter is **REQUIRED** to report on your Spring Youth Service Day project through the Chapter Officer Portal at <https://op.apo.org>.

Even if your chapter does not perform a Spring Youth Service Day project, you are required to submit a report confirming that you did not do a project. Both types of reports (participation and non-participation) on Spring Youth Service Day are due **May 1, 2017**.

Reporting is easy to do online and takes only a few minutes. Chapter officers can enter your project information on the OP Spring Youth Service Day Report under Forms. The report has a combination of “drop down menus” (date, chapter, etc.) and “fill in the information” boxes (project description, number of hours, etc). Be sure to choose the correct selections from the drop down menus. You can view the online service project report form at any time so you know what information is requested.

Whoever submits the chapter’s report will be asked to give his/her name and an email address. An email message containing the information submitted in the report will automatically be sent to the person who submitted the project information, the sectional chair, the regional service chair, the Service Director, the Spring Youth Service Day Chair and the National Office. Please save a copy of this email to confirm your submission. You may also check on your chapter’s report (to see if it has been submitted/what was submitted) by pulling up the information from the database.

**Remember: you can report on any youth-based project your chapter did this spring*

FRATERNITY RESOURCES

The Fraternity has developed resources to help plan service projects. Here is a list of online resources available to help with planning and project implementation:

- For help with planning a service project: APO IMPACT – Service Project Leader:
apoimpactproject.wikispaces.com/Service+Project+Leader
- For help with publicizing your event: APO IMPACT – Marketing and Public Relations:
apoimpactproject.wikispaces.com/Marketing+%26+Public+Relations
- For help with ideas for projects see:
<http://www.apo.org/service>
- For any other assistance contact your sectional, regional or national alumni volunteers with your questions:
Sectional Chair: *section.XX.chair@apo.org*
(XX is your section number)

Regional Chair: *region.XX.chair@apo.org*
(XX is your region number)

Regional Service Chair: *region.XX.service@apo.org*
(XX is your region number)

SYSD Chair: *sysd.chair@apo.org*

Service Program Chair: *service.chair@apo.org*

SERVICE PROJECT IDEAS

Here are a few service projects carried out by Alpha Phi Omega chapters in past years. Try to involve youth and other organizations in these projects as much as possible.

ONE-DAY/WEEKEND PROJECTS

- Assist or visit children at a hospital or a school for the blind, deaf or developmentally disabled
- Run a youth carnival or crafts fair and consider having a special theme like safety, literacy or science
- Hold an Easter egg hunt for children at a local school or children's home
- Playground building, repair and litter control
- Hold a teen dance, talent show or game night
- Cleanup projects at community centers, summer camps, and local parks, etc. Get children involved and teach them about important environmental issues
- Hold a children's story time in conjunction with a local library, elementary school, etc.
- Teach younger children of the values of proper hand washing techniques and staying clean
- Hold an educational seminar for teens. Topics can include issues such as violence, drugs, fitness, etc.
- Organize a field day or sporting event to get children exercising

LONGER-TERM PROJECTS

- Coach or sponsor a youth athletic team (as permitted by your university and risk management plans)
- Create an after-school program for local children where they can get help with their studies or learn a new activity
- Collect diapers, toys or other baby essentials for needy families
- Sponsor a toy drive for a local organization or youth charity
- Make blankets, stuffed animals, etc., for seriously ill or needy children
- Help to provide leadership for a youth organization such as Scouting, 4-H, Campfire, etc.
- Collect food and funds and provide assistance for local food pantries and soup kitchens
- Sponsor a book drive for a local library, school or community center
- Help with child-care services at a shelter or day care center
- Record books for blind children
- Raise money for an organization that serves youth through walk-a-thons, rock-a-thons, etc.

PROJECTS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP YOUTH

- Organize a Merit Badge University or advancement event for Boy or Girl Scouts
- Work with Child Rescue Network or local police departments to create photo/fingerprint ID cards for children
- Hold a career/college fair at a local high school
- Develop or staff an event for a youth related organization, such as Ronald McDonald House, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Boys/Girls Clubs, YMCA, child abuse centers, etc.
- Do a joint service project with a high school service club such as the JROTC, Key Club, etc.
- Volunteer to help at a Special Olympics event

OTHER SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Spring Youth Service Day Partners: These organizations are among those that have joined with Alpha Phi Omega to be partners in serving youth as part of Global Youth Service Day. Feel free to contact local chapters to see if they will join you in your projects: www.gysd.org/partners

- Afterschool Alliance
- Alliance for Catholic Education
- Alliance to Save Energy
- America SCORES
- America's Promise - The Alliance for Youth
- American Association of Community Colleges
- American Federation of Teachers
- American Planning Association
- American Probation & Parole Association
- American Red Cross
- AmeriCorps Alums
- Arab American Institute Foundation
- Association of Children's Museums
- Best Buddies International
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of America
- Boy Scouts of America
- Boys & Girls Clubs of America
- The C4 Group
- Camp Fire USA
- Campus Compact
- Chi Psi Fraternity
- City Year
- CISV USA
- Close Up Foundation
- Communities In Schools, Inc.
- The Congressional Award
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI)
- Constitutional Rights Foundation
- Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- The Corps Network
- Department of Defense (Children and Youth Programs)
- Department of Veterans Affairs, Voluntary Service
- Do Something
- Earth Day Network
- EducationWorks
- F.I.L.M. - Finding Inspiration in Literature and Movies
- Family, Career and Community Leaders of America
- Future Business Leaders of America - Phi Beta Lambda
- Habitat for Humanity International
- Hands On Network
- Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life
- HOPE worldwide
- Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership
- Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development
- International Baccalaureate Organization
- J-Serve
- JCC Association
- Jewish Coalition for Service
- Job Corps
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- March of Dimes
- MENC: The National Association for Music Education
- Mobilize.org
- National Association of Elementary School Principals
- National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)
- National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
- National Association of Social Workers
- National Association of Student Councils (NASC)

- National Association of Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
- National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
- National Collaboration for Youth
- National Council for the Social Studies
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
- National Crime Prevention Council
- National Dropout Prevention Center/Network
- National Education Association
- National Family Week
- National Honor Society (NHS)
- National Human Services Assembly
- National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)
- National League of Cities
- National Middle School Association
- National Network for Youth
- National Organizations for Youth Safety
- National Service-Learning Clearinghouse
- National Service-Learning Partnership
- The National Society of Collegiate Scholars National Student Partnerships
- National Wildlife Federation
- National Youth Advocacy Coalition (NYAC)
- National Youth Court Center/American Probation and Parole Association
- National Youth Leadership Council
- PANIM: The Institute for Jewish Leadership and Values
- Partnership for Food Safety Education
- Points of Light Foundation
- Public Allies
- Reading is Fundamental, Inc.
- Rural School and Community Trust
- SEANet-- the State Education Agency K-12 Service-Learning Network
- Search Institute
- Service for Peace
- Share Our Strength
- Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and Foundation
- Sigma Alpha Lambda
- Sister Cities International
- Souper Bowl of Caring
- Special Olympics
- Sports Gift
- Student Conservation Association
- Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)
- Take Pride in America
- Teach For America
- Tri-M Music Honor Society
- U.S. Conference of Mayors
- U.S. Center for Citizen Diplomacy
- U.S. Department of Justice
- U.S. Department of Transportation
- USA Freedom Corps
- Volunteers of America
- VSA arts
- Women in Community Service
- Work, Achievement, Values & Education (WAVE), Inc.
- YMCA of the USA
- Youth Service America
- Youth Venture
- Youth Volunteer Corps of America
- YWCA USA