

Youth Empowered Service

Dixie School District

Miller Creek Middle School

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The Youth Empowered Service or Y.E.S. program was established in 2003 as a way to empower youth at Miller Creek Middle School by giving them access to community service opportunities. Middle school students have many gifts to share and, when given opportunities, embrace volunteerism and giving to others. Y.E.S. is an optional program that uses the schools' homeroom system, a volunteer web page, and the daily student bulletin to offer new and varied volunteer opportunities to 8th grade students.



Student participation has grown steadily since the commencement of Y.E.S. Students who earn 20 service hours are honored at the 8th grade promotion ceremony and are awarded a service pin. Currently, 96 8th graders are working toward this 20 hour commitment during the 2014-15 school year and have already accumulated a total of 1,865 volunteer hours. In addition, in collaboration with the organization Free the Children 22 8th grade students met stringent criteria of volunteerism and earned their way to WE Day, a movement to empower a generation of young global citizens through an inspiration event and a year-long education initiative.

The types of service opportunities vary widely in hopes of attracting interest by a diverse group of students. Examples of volunteerism include tutoring at local elementary schools, collecting pennies to raise money for schools in Ghana, and preparing appreciation cards and packages to send to soldiers overseas. Students at Miller Creek realize the positive impact they have and have begun to initiate their own volunteerism efforts, which include designing and executing a haunted house to raise money for UNICEF. Students make a difference at the local, national, and international level.

As Gandhi said, "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourselves in the service of others." Middle school is a time of significant change and Miller Creek believes that providing student an opportunity to find who they are through the service of others is the way to go!

