



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is the CATALYST Project?**

The CATALYST Project is a youth-driven network of ambassadors for service-learning. These high school students were selected from a diverse pool of applicants from around California and now work in state and regional teams to promote service-learning in their schools, districts and communities.

### **What are the CATALYST Ambassadors working on?**

The Ambassadors' collective public relations work will include: writing articles; speaking at conferences; creating public service announcements; photographing and documenting service-learning projects; hosting Q&A sessions; and meeting with teachers, Rotary members, students, school administrators, and other community leaders.

### **How were the CATALYST Ambassadors selected?**

Youth from around California submitted applications describing the service-learning they had participated in and their motivations for wanting to get other youth involved in service-learning. Youth Service California, the coordinating organization for the CATALYST Project, tried to pull together a team reflective of California's diversity.

### **What is Youth Service California?**

Youth Service California (YSCal) is a non-profit organization based in Oakland, California, whose mission is "to make service a meaningful part of every young person's life in California." It coordinates the CATALYST Project, with sponsorship from the California Department of Education's CalServe Initiative.

### **Can I invite a CATALYST Ambassador to speak at my event?**

Yes! We have CATALYST Ambassadors working throughout California, each developing their own leadership and public relations skills as they promote service-learning. If you



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would like to add youth voice to your upcoming service-learning related event, please contact Elaine Ellis at [elaine@yscal.org](mailto:elaine@yscal.org).

**What is Service-Learning?**

Service-Learning is a method of teaching that integrates service into school curriculum, enriching learning by engaging students in meaningful service to their schools or communities. Service-learning is different from community service. For example, cleaning up a river is **service**. Sitting in a science classroom looking at water samples under a microscope is **learning**. Students taking samples from local water sources, analyzing the samples, documenting the results and presenting scientific findings to a local pollution control agency to aid in change is **service-learning**.



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