

Creating an Aquatic Garden

Community Objective

To plan, organize, build and maintain an aquatic garden within our school community.

Background

This project is designed to be a school wide project involving grades 5-8. The purpose is to design and build an aquatic garden inside the school building. In this plan, students become both the providers and recipients of service.

Challenged Student Conditions

- ~Physically challenged students may be service providers in our project if we (1) include all students in both planning and design of the project, and (2) utilize teamwork to allow students to overcome physical challenges.
- ~Academically challenged students may be service providers in our project if we (1) invite all students to become part of the planning and decision-making process, and (2) use hands-on activities utilizing teamwork to accomplish the actual construction and maintenance.

Resources

- ~High school students participating in the aquatics program of the county vocational-technical center.
- ~Community members with areas of expertise (electricians, carpenters)
- ~Funds to provide for purchasing fish and other aquatic life.
- ~Funds for maintaining aquatic life.
- ~Student volunteers to care for living organisms.
- ~Research information on proper care and handling of organisms.
- ~Research information on maintaining proper water quality.

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Timeline of Service Activities

- Week 1 ~Contact county administration and school officials for approval of aquatic garden project.
~Secure funding for project through fund raising, grants, or donations from local businesses and organizations.
- Week 2 ~Students identify the site for the aquatic garden and purchase an appropriate aquatic garden kit.
- Week 3 ~Students will research information on the proper care and maintenance of an aquatic garden.
- Weeks 4-5 ~Students will contact and meet with volunteers to install the aquatic garden.
- Week 6 ~Students will meet with high school volunteers to fill the aquatic garden with living organisms.
- Week 7 ~Students will develop a schedule for the continuous care of the aquatic garden. Students begin caring for the aquatic garden.

Reflection

- ~Students will record their thoughts, feelings, and ideas in a journal throughout each stage of the project.
- ~Students will analyze their feelings as a result of working with their team.
- ~Students will share their journals with other group members.
- ~Students will consider, discuss, and evaluate the installation process.
- ~Students will analyze their feelings about a career involving aqua culture or marine biology.

Celebration

- ~The project will be included in the yearbook.
- ~Area business leaders and school and community members will be invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony.
- ~Pictures will be taken throughout all stages of the installation process and displayed in the school.
- ~Articles and pictures will be included in the school newspaper.
- ~A brochure and pictorial will be developed and handed out at various conferences and meetings.
- ~Students will receive a brochure and be recognized at the end of year graduation exercises.

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~Local media will be contacted to provide public coverage of the project throughout the building stages and the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

Nature of Science

- ~Investigate career choices in the area of aquatics and marine biology. (6.4)
- ~Formulate conclusions through close observations, logic objectivity, perseverance, and integrity in data collection. (6.13, 6.86)
- ~Describe the interactions of various cycles that provide energy and/or materials for growth, repair and shelter. (6.27)
- ~Develop rational thinking processes to analyze how systems work together, factors which impact the environment, and ecological consequences of human interactions. (6.19, 6.32)
- ~Demonstrate safe techniques for handling and manipulating equipment and living organisms. (6.23)
- ~Explain changes in common patterns of interdependence among organisms. (6.80)

Contact Information

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