

Salute to the Armed Forces

Community Objective(s)

To honor men and women who served or are serving in the armed forces, to instill a sense of patriotism in our community, and to develop community awareness of the number of veterans in our area.

Background

This is a service-learning project that honors our local veterans and gives students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of different branches of the military service and the history of US conflicts. Men and women, who served in any branch of our armed forces are invited to share their experiences and artifacts with our students and members of the community in an informal question and answer session. Students are able to gain first hand knowledge about major US conflicts and actually touch and ask questions about artifacts from various wars. Following the question and answer session, the student will honor these brave Americans with a patriotic musical program. They have learned theme songs from each branch of the service and will perform them during the program. Some students put their artistic skills to work and make special awards for the honored guests. Following the program, the students will tour and explore large military equipment and vehicles provided by the local Army Reserve Center.

Challenged Student Conditions

- ~Students involved in this project are in grades K-12 and are either deaf, blind, or both. Some students are also mentally and physically challenged. All students can be active participants and service providers by;
- ~Including them in the planning by providing materials in Braille or large print, interpreters, and making all sites wheelchair accessible
- ~Adapting assignments according to grade level or ability
- ~Assisting any special needs students according to safety issues and individual requirements
- ~Including all students in at least one stage of the planning, preparation, or implementation of the project

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SERVICE-LEARNING LESSON-PLANS
FOR K-12 CHALLENGED STUDENTS

Resources

- ~Project coordinator, student volunteers, community volunteers, veteran volunteers
- ~Local Armed Forces Reserve units willing to bring equipment if possible
- ~Computer access, braille, and braille paper, copy machine access
- ~Art supplies, American flags, music, piano and other musical instruments
- ~Interpreters for the deaf students
- ~PA system for program
- ~Program location

Timeline

September

- ~Set date for program with administration's permission
- ~Divide students into volunteer groups
- ~Prepare and send out letters to local veterans
- ~Prepare advertising

October

- ~Arrange to have volunteer veterans share their military experiences
- ~Arrange for local Reserve unit to bring large military equipment
- ~Engage music teachers to help coordinate program
- ~Make decorations and prepare displays
- ~Organize presentation and print the program

November

- ~Notify local newspaper of event
- ~Rehearse the program
- ~Send invitations and start the decorations and booths

Program Date

- ~Assemble the awards and certificates
- ~Visit military booths according the printed schedule
- ~Present program "A Salute to the Armed Forces"
- ~Tour and explore the military equipment
- ~Enjoy picnic lunch, discussion, and fellowship after the program
- ~Clean-up and return equipment

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Reflection

- ~Students will make a wreath and place it on the veterans Memorial on Memorial Day
- ~Students will describe emotions evoked during the patriotic program
- ~Students will make a list of family members who are veterans and share any interesting stories or artifacts with the class
- ~Students will visit the local Court House and to explore names of residents who lost their lives while in the military service

Celebration

- ~At the conclusion of the program all students, teachers, and volunteers will enjoy a picnic lunch together, continuing stories, discussion and fellowship.

Academic Objectives

WV IGOs

- ~IGOs can be modified by grade level to meet the diversity of students in each grade level and the special needs population
- ~List and identify the sequence of major US conflicts (H 4.38)
- ~Describe the role geo-politics played in historic events of the twentieth century (H 7.53)
- ~Research different branches of the US military
- ~Identify the use of music in US History (M 3.27)
- ~Sing patriotic songs from memory (M 4.2)
- ~Create art to evoke specific feelings (A 3.24)

Contact Information

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