

Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning 2007

Cesar Chavez Day holiday was established in 2000 to honor the life and legacy of labor leader Cesar E. Chavez. CaliforniaVolunteers administers the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning program which includes the playground building effort, as well as the formation of afterschool service clubs and curriculum development to integrate lessons regarding Chavez's life into school day and afterschool activities.

Afterschool Service Club Program

CaliforniaVolunteers will award a total of \$2.5 million in grant funding this year for afterschool service clubs engage students in community service projects. In collaboration with Youth Service California, CaliforniaVolunteers awarded the first wave of grants to school districts and county offices of education committed to operating service clubs at multiple low-income middle schools in California.

Service Club Curriculum Development

Together with the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation and Youth Service California, CaliforniaVolunteers will develop a curriculum to guide afterschool service clubs. Although intensive support will be limited to CaliforniaVolunteers grantees, the curriculum will be available online to all interested afterschool programs. The curriculum will consist of a series of 10 lessons which guide students through learning about Chavez's life and work and connecting his core values to their own work.

Professional Development for Teachers

Resources for teachers and afterschool staff to incorporate service and learning about the Chavez's contributions into their lesson and activity plans will be available on the CaliforniaVolunteers Web site. Among the resources under development are curricula for middle school service clubs and toolkits for integrating service-learning projects into the regular school day. Trainings for teachers in utilizing these resources will be available in communities throughout California.

Ten Playground Builds in California

March 24-31, CaliforniaVolunteers, in partnership with national non-profit KaBOOM!, the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation and Youth Service California, will construct ten playgrounds in communities across California. These playgrounds will be placed at schools, local parks or community-based facilities accessible to the public. In honor of Chavez's commitment to community building and service, planning committees made up of community members, including children, teachers and parents, organized volunteer recruitment, site preparation and safety/logistics for each of the playgrounds. Planning began in February, when kids from each community met with organizers from KaBOOM! and CaliforniaVolunteers to draw their "dream" playspaces. Children have participated in a series of lessons regarding Chavez's life that will culminate the day of the build. More than 2,500 volunteers will participate in the construction of the playgrounds to serve more than 100,000 California kids.