It only takes a little to BE BIG!

Service Project Planning Guide
“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.”

–Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Welcome Educators!

Youth HandsOn and Scholastic have come together with everyone’s favorite Big Red Dog, Clifford, to help children participate in service learning in a way that underscores the development of individual and community character and helps everyone have fun as a part of Be Big!

Be Big! is a national campaign that invites everyone—big and small—to use Clifford’s Big Ideas to help make the world a better place.

Clifford’s Big Ideas are:

- Share ● Help Others ● Be Kind ● Be Responsible
- Play Fair ● Be a Good Friend ● Believe in Yourself
- Have Respect ● Work Together ● Be Truthful

The following pages contain ideas for ways that you and your students can become involved in your community in a meaningful and rewarding way.

We hope that this is just the beginning of your journey with your students to Be Big! together, as individuals and in the community for all to see!
What is Be Big?

Be Big! is a national campaign that invites everyone—big and small—to take action and raise awareness for how Clifford’s Big Ideas can make the world a better place. The mission of Be Big is to recognize and reward others for their Be Big actions, to catalyze change in local communities and to provide resources for everyone to share Big Ideas!

Being Big is about being Big-Hearted. It’s about having a Big Spirit. Being Big is something we should all do more often.

It only takes a little to be Big!

Clifford’s Big Ideas (Share, Help Others, Be Kind, Be Responsible, Play Fair; Be a Good Friend, Believe in Yourself, Have Respect, Work Together and Be Truthful) were borne out of the curriculum developed for the award-winning animated television series—which celebrates its 10th anniversary on PBS KIDS in 2010. The goal of the Big Ideas is to support children’s growing understanding that the actions they choose make a difference to themselves and others. The Big Ideas present value-based content that engage children in important life lessons.

You can find out more about Be Big at www.scholastic.com/cliffordbebig including curriculum ideas that will help you integrate Be Big! into your curriculum.

Also, the 2nd annual Be Big In Your Community Contest starts February 1st. You and your students can enter your service project in the contest for a chance to see your Big Idea win a $25,000 community grant and come to life!
What is Service Learning?

Service-learning is not just volunteering or participating in community service. As defined by the National Commission on Service-Learning, service-learning is “a teaching and learning approach that integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.” It gives meaning and real life application to the subjects taught in the classroom, helping to answer the perpetual question, “Why do I need to learn this?”

Service-learning also includes an emphasis on reflection to help students understand the importance of their actions. Service-learning can be implemented at all grade levels and can be rewarding and fun.

Service-learning offers powerful lifelong benefits. Participants learn responsibility, leadership, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They experience greater self-respect, character development and self-discipline, increased motivation and engagement in studies, more tolerance, a broader perspective and improved academic performance.

Now, as a part of Be Big!, Youth HandsOn and Scholastic want to help you build service learning into your community. Your service project can be as large as you dream. This guide contains the tools and resources to help you plan an engaging service project with your students.

Thank you again for your commitment to young people and service! The service-learning plans in this guide are designed to help teachers, youth group leaders and other community leaders to incorporate youth service into their communities and schools.
Welcome

How To Use This Guide

This guide will lead you through how to plan and manage a service learning project with your students.

The service projects suggested in this guide are child friendly and ready for you to introduce to your students.

As you work with this guide, you will note that we have been attentive to addressing the unique challenges of engaging children and youth through volunteering.

The projects in this guide were developed by Youth HandsOn Network and have been tested by children and classrooms in local communities. They are a lot of fun and provide ample opportunities for service learning and for practicing what it means to Be Big!

The guide includes suggested service projects for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grade. You can also come up with your own!

Good luck and remember, It Only Takes A Little to Be Big!
Service Project for Pre-Kindergarten
Spreading Cheer Cards

1 Prepare. Discuss Be Big with your students. Ask them to join you in thinking about SHARE, one of Clifford’s Big Ideas. Explain the concepts of giving and sharing and ask students to brainstorm people that they have shared with before. Explain to students that they will now practice giving and sharing again by making Spreading Cheer Cards and giving them to someone special.

Youth Voice: Allowing students to offer their opinions and suggestions to the service project is called youth voice and is instrumental in conducting youth service. Brainstorm with students about individuals that they can give their cards to, helping students to choose people that might often be overlooked (for example: students may wish to give their cards to a family member, but it may be better to give their cards to people like the school’s cafeteria workers, police officers, senior citizens, or sick children in hospitals as they may not typically receive such kind gifts). Talk to students about why various groups of people would make good choices for Spreading Cheer Cards.

2 Act. Distribute one piece of construction paper to each student. Ask them to fold the card in half evenly. Next, allow students to use cut out pictures, crayons or colored pencils to decorate their cards. On the front of the card, students should write a happy message that lets the person know that they hope the card makes them happy or that they appreciate them (for example: Bringing Sunshine Your Way! or I Appreciate You! or You Make Me Smile!) You may want to use stencils to help students write their phrases, or have them prewritten for students to color in.

3 Share. After your students have completed their cards, give them to your chosen recipients.

4 Reflect. Reflection is a key component of service-learning that adds meaning to the experience. Ask students how they felt about donating their cards and how they think people felt receiving them. Discuss with students why doing this project was important. Talk about which of Clifford’s Big Ideas were included in the project (for example, the focus was on SHARE but were other Big Ideas addressed?)
Service Project for Kindergarten

Pet Collars for Animals in Shelters

1. **Prepare.** Discuss Be Big with your students. Ask them to join you in thinking about BE KIND and BE A GOOD FRIEND, two of Clifford’s Big Ideas. Explain that they will now practice being kind and being a good friend to animals by making pet collars. Ask them to think about how they could use those Big Ideas to help animals in shelters get adopted. Pet collars can be made from any material such as cotton cloth or felt. Gather the required materials. Cut the cloth into strips about 3” wide and 8” long. These will be decorated by students so you may want to create a template with key messages outlined on the cloth before hand.

**Youth Voice:** Allowing students to offer their opinions and suggestions to the service project is called *youth voice* and is instrumental in conducting youth service. Brainstorm with students about animal shelters that they can give their collars to and types of pets that could wear the collars that they make.

2. **Act.** Distribute one pet collar template to each student. Next, allow students to use fabric markers to decorate their collars (such images may include paw prints, puppies, or kittens and such phrases may include “Bow Wow” or “Woof!/Meow! I am your friend!”

3. **Share.** After your students have completed their collars, give them to your previously chosen recipients.

4. **Reflect.** Reflection is a key component of service-learning that adds meaning to the experience. Ask students how they felt about donating their collars and how they think shelters felt receiving them. Discuss with students why doing this project was important. Talk about which of Clifford’s Big Ideas were included in the project (for example, the focus was on BE KIND and BE A GOOD FRIEND, but were other Big Ideas addressed?)
Service Project for Grades 1 & 2
Friendship Quilts

1 Prepare. Discuss Be Big with your students. Ask them to join you in thinking about HAVE RESPECT, one of Clifford’s Big Ideas. Review the concept of respect and ask students to brainstorm what it means and how you can do it. Explain to students that they will now practice giving and sharing again by making Friendship Quilts and donating them to shelters.

Youth Voice: Allowing students to offer their opinions and suggestions to the service project is called youth voice and is instrumental in conducting youth service. Brainstorm with students about possible places that they can give their quilt and ways to make it more meaningful to the recipients (for example, adding cards with positive messages and tying them with ribbon might be a great way to present the items that the students have made).

2 Act. Distribute one piece of construction paper or cloth square to each student. Next, allow students to decorate their quilt square with positive messages about peace. Connect the pieces of the quilt together with glue or using yarn or string. Make positive cards to accompany the quilt (such messages could include: Here’s a Smile Coming your Way! or I Hope that you Have a Great Day!) After that, students could use ribbon to tie the cards to the quilt to make a beautiful presentation.

3 Share. After your students have completed their Friendship Quilts squares, give them to your chosen recipients.

4 Reflect. Reflection is a key component of service-learning that adds meaning to the experience. Ask students how they felt about donating their Friendship Quilts and how they think shelters felt receiving them. Discuss with students why doing this project was important. Talk about which of Clifford’s Big Ideas were included in the project (for example, the focus was on HAVE RESPECT, but were other Big Ideas addressed?)
Create Your Own Service Project

Your service activities are not limited to the projects provided in this guide—work with your group to develop a hands-on service project that works best for you!

Brainstorm with students on various needs they see in their community. Take a walk around the neighborhood, read about current events in the newspaper or interview community members to help you gather information.

After listing several ideas, assign smaller groups to brainstorm possible hands-on service projects that would address the community need. For example, if students identify “nutrition” as a community need, they may choose to create a healthy cookbook as a hands-on service project to address this need.

Ask each group to share their idea and plans with the class. As a group, decide the most feasible project based on your skills, available time, resources and space. Maybe you’ll pick more than one!

Congratulations! You have just taken a BIG step in Being BIG! Good luck with your original service project idea!

A Project Planning Success Story!

A class identified health and fitness concerns in their community. They decided that their project would be making supplies for a physical activity that students could play during recess or after school.

One team developed a hands-on project where volunteers construct jump ropes. They completed their worksheet and realized that their project would be easy—it would take only a few steps to make a jump rope—and that many people could work on the project at one time, enabling them to engage a lot of volunteers. Finally, the project used supplies that were inexpensive and easy to obtain.

The class coordinated a donation with a local after-school facility and ran the hands-on project during a Global Youth Service Day event. Afterwards, the completed jump ropes were delivered and some of the students also helped teach the young recipients how to jump rope!
Three Steps to a Successful Service Project

Whether you are organizing a classroom service project, a school-wide project or inviting the whole community, these three steps will help you to plan and run a successful service project.

1 Prepare

- **Getting started:** Discuss Be Big with your students. Ask them how they could use Clifford’s Big Ideas to help make their school or neighborhood a better place. Work together with your students to come up with a service project idea that addresses the needs they identified in your discussion.

- **Assign roles:** Are there different tasks for your students to do? Can you assign roles to individuals or smaller groups?

- **Plan:** What materials do you need for the project? Can you get it from your school? Do you need your kids to bring in recycled materials? Ask the kids to help you think.

- **Who else needs to be involved in the project?** Do you need a place to donate something you make? You will probably be responsible for this step, but it is good to engage your students in the discussion.

- **Develop a timeline:** What needs to happen and by when? Help your students budget time for the project.

2 Act

- **Getting going:** Do the project with your students. It may take more than one session, so make sure you remind your students what you are doing and why.

- **Share:** Once you are done, plan a mini-event that enables you and your kids to deliver what you made to the community or recipients. Don’t forget to invite your principal to join you!

3 Thank, Reflect, Celebrate!

- Don’t forget to thank anyone who helped you with a nice Thank You card.

- Engage your class in thinking about how they felt about the project, why it was important and how they used Clifford’s Big Ideas to Be Big!

- Plan a celebration with your students to mark their accomplishment in Being Big!

Congratulations!
You are on your way to planning and running a successful service project!
Reflection Form

My name is: ____________________________________________

How old are you? _________ What grade are you in? _________

I am a:

Boy

Girl

Have you ever volunteered before? _________ Yes _________ No

After volunteering today, I feel:

Draw what you did today:
“The time is always right to do what is right.”

–Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.