

The Kentucky YMCA Youth Association develops engaged citizens and servant leaders, inspired to affect change in their school, community, Commonwealth, nation, and world. Through experiential learning, service, and community activism, the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association fosters critical thinking, leadership, and social responsibility in teens.

At the Y, we embrace all types of service learning, and encourage our Student Y Chapters to explore different ones, as well as building connections between them. The following will give you a little more information on different types of service and what sort of projects your chapter might do to fit in each of them.

Direct Service: Helping people hands on and face to face

- Mentoring younger students
- Working at a day camp
- Serving in a soup kitchen

Indirect Service: Working to improve a community without interacting with its members

- Painting buildings
- Picking up trash
- Maintaining a community garden

Philanthropy: Collecting money or goods to benefit an organization or cause

- Raising funds for a charity
- Collecting canned goods for a local food pantry
- Donating toys and gifts to needy children for the holidays

Advocacy: Raising awareness about an issue

- Sponsoring a bill at KYA or a proposal at KUNA
- Holding a voter registration drive
- Speaking to your City Council about a community problem

When possible, we encourage Student Y Chapters to combine different types of service into one project. For example, you might collect canned goods to take to a local soup kitchen, and serve a meal when you deliver them or raise money to donate to a charity where your members also perform service hours.

Above all, it is important to be sure to include learning in service learning- each project should be debriefed so you can see how you've impacted the population you've served, how they've impacted you, and how you might be even more effective with your next project.