

National Youth Service Day 2005

Lead Agency Evaluation

THANK YOU for serving as a Lead Agency for National Youth Service Day 2005! Your hard work and amazing accomplishments made National Youth Service Day 2005 a huge success.

*Your feedback and input are very important to us as we seek to continuously improve the ways we work with and support Lead Agencies in future years. Please complete this evaluation and e-mail it to Charles Martinez, National Youth Service Field Manager, at cmartinez@ysa.org, by **May 27th**.*

I. Lead Agency and Planning Coalition Demographics

1. Please include the following information for the person completing this report:

Name of Organization: [Anchorage's Promise](#)

City, State: [Anchorage, Alaska](#)

First and Last Name: [Cari Boltz Zawodny / Kera Farrell](#)

Title: [Executive Director / AmeriCorps Promise Fellow](#)

Telephone: [907.522.1423](#)

Email Address: anchoragepromise@ak.org

2. What was the scale of your event (city, county, within state regional, state, or multi-state)? [State](#)
3. Total number of organizations in local planning coalition: [32](#)
4. Please list organization names:

[Dimond High School Z Club, Dimond High School National Honor Society, Eielson AFB Youth Services, State Farm, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Nine Star, Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, Anchorage Municipal Libraries' Summer Reading Program, Goldenview Middle School's Neon, Adult Learning Programs of Alaska, Gateway School, Alaska Spirit of Community, Prudential Youth Leadership Institute, Boys and Girls Club of South Central Alaska, Covenant House Alaska, Native Village of Kotzebue, ASPEN Program, The Student Leadership Team at Inlet View Elementary School, The Mayor's Office, Youth Advisory Commission, Aurora Elementary School, East High's Beta Club, East High's Track Team, Cook Inlet Tribal Council Youth Center, Dimond Grace Fellowship, City wide Clean Up, Mt. View Clean Up Project, Little Sweepers Program, and Anchorage's Promise](#)

5. Total number of individuals actively involved in planning committee: [371](#)
6. Number of youth on event planning committee(s): [326](#)
7. What responsibilities did the youth have? [Youth responsibilities varied from project to project, however, most projects had youth coordinators. Responsibilities included but were not limited to: general event planning, phone calls, marketing, volunteer recruitment, collecting donations, creating artwork, mentoring other youth, and serving as volunteers.](#)
8. Number of schools involved in the recruitment/planning process: [6](#)
9. Describe any new or strengthened partnerships you formed as a result of being a Lead Agency and how those partnerships will benefit your future programming [We strengthened our support from the Anchorage Youth Development Coalition, this will help increase our coalition members in the future.](#)

Our growing relationship with the Anchorage School District will also help to build our school partners. The most exciting growth in 2005 was the addition of projects from other parts of the state. NYSD projects in Alaska's rural communities have a strong positive impact on the village and are likely to continue year round.

10. Did you distribute mini-grants? **No**

a. If so, how much total funding did you disperse for NYSD?

II. Lead Agency Information

1. Was this your first time organizing a city/regional/statewide event? **No**

2. Was this your first time working with a coalition? **No**

3. Did you or your coalition members receive additional YSA funding through one of our other grants? **No**

4. If so, which one? [AT&T CARES Youth Service Action Fund Winner, State Farm Good Neighbor Service-Learning Award Winner, DisneyHand Minnie Grant Winner, Clay Aiken ABLE to SERVE Winner, Motorola Youth Action Fund Winner, Youth Leaders for Literacy, Youth Court Grant Winner, Communities in Schools Grant Winner, Constitutional Rights Foundation National Teach In Winner, FCCLA Grant Winner, NEA Youth Leaders for Literacy Grant Winner, Close Up Foundation Winner, Phi Alpha Delta Grant Winner, Youth Venture Winner, Panim/Jserve Winner, Other]

5. Is your organization interested in being a Lead Agency for National Youth Service Day 2006? **Yes**

6. Please provide feedback on the overall online Lead Agency application process. (e.g., questions, notification, user-friendly). **The application process was simple and straightforward. We look forward to submitting our 2006 application.**

III. Information About Your Coalition

1. Did you work with a local State Farm office? **Yes**

a. If so, how did they aid your coalition? **Our State Farm office was incredibly helpful. State Farm provided certificates of participation, volunteer stickers, and to all youth volunteers during NYSD. State Farm also hosted a booth at KidsDay, this year's NYSD kick off event. The State Farm booth helped young children learn how to use 911 services.**

b. Who was your primary contact person at State Farm? **Nancy Carpenter**

2. Did you have SERVENet Ambassadors or YSA's Youth Advisory Council involved? **No**

a. If so, how many and how were they involved?

3. Did you have student councils involved? **Yes**

4. Total number of projects implemented by coalition: **30**

5. Total number of neighborhoods or communities impacted by your National Youth Service Day plans: **5**

6. Service-learning is a teaching method that combines meaningful service to the community with curriculum-based learning. Did any projects incorporate a service-learning approach? If yes, please describe the service learning. **Many projects did use service learning. We are currently working to gather more**

detailed descriptions of the service learning. One example of service learning in the classroom comes from Goldenview Middle School: Students were involved in a haiku poetry unit learning the art of haiku. Students chose to create their own original poetry work and incorporate the poems into springtime greeting cards. The students then determined who should receive the cards and reflected not only on the service, but also on what they enjoyed about creative writing.

IV. Volunteer Information

1. Number of volunteers involved in all projects implemented by coalition members: 16,587
2. Number of volunteers who were youth: 15,121
3. How many hours did the average volunteer serve (include time involved in project planning, project completion, and project evaluation/reflection/follow-up)? 2-4 hours
4. Approximate percentage of volunteers by gender:
Male: 49%
Female: 51%
5. Approximate percentage of volunteers by ethnicity:
African American: 16%
Caucasian: 55%
Latino: 3%
Native American: 7%
Asian: 2%
Other: 17%
6. Approximate percentage of volunteers coming from the following environments:
Urban: 95% (Anchorage is an urban area)
Suburban: %
Rural: 5%

V. Information about your Service Projects

1. Please describe quantitative results of projects implemented by your coalition (e.g., number of people served, number of canned goods collected, etc). **Just a Few Highlights:**
Approximately 10,000 participants in on-site service projects at KidsDay including a 911 simulator, drug-free lifestyle programs, a handpainted US Flag for our troops in Iraq, greeting cards for seniors, and many more!
Nearly 500 youth donated their talent as performers during KidsDay
Approximately 200 youth were involved in the Mt. View Clean up Project
90 Haiku greeting cards were donated to Providence Extended Care and AWAIC
A large box of toys was donated to the AWAIC Shelter
A local park was cleaned up and 5 birdhouses made from recycled materials were placed in the park
100 care packages were donated to Providence Children’s Hospital
100 meals were prepared and delivered to Anchorage’s homeless
Care Packages were sent to troops in Iraq

2. Please describe qualitative results of projects implemented by your coalition (e.g., impact on the community, greater sense of civic responsibility instilled in youth volunteers, etc.)
 Many youth and adult participants we spoke with expressed a sense of feeling more connected to their community as a result of NYSD. Many participants also experienced a feeling of connection to the rest of the Nation – often Alaskans feel disconnected from the “Lower 48” – NYSD helps bring us together. Many youth commented that they enjoyed being ask to help in the community and really liked seeing their hard work make a difference.
3. Was a service-learning approach incorporated into local service projects? **Yes**
 - a. If so, please explain the service-learning approach **as previously stated many projects did use the service learning approach. We are currently working to gather more detailed descriptions of the service learning.**
4. Please describe the nature and extent of youth leadership in planning for and implementing National Youth Service Day projects (e.g., researching community needs, selecting/designing project, contacting media, budget preparation, evaluation, etc.) **As previously stated, youth leadership varied from project to project, however, most projects placed youth in leadership roles that included researching community needs, selecting and designing projects, and evaluating results.**
5. Did you have a kickoff or celebratory event? **Yes No**
 - a. If so, please briefly describe your event. b. If not, please explain . **Yes, KidsDay served as our NYSD kick off and celebration. This free family-fun day attracted approximately 12,000 community members. Parents learned about the family-friendly resources available in Anchorage while enjoying live entertainment. Kids also enjoyed the entertainment, as well as craft booths, face painting, and interactive activities and learning games. All participants had the opportunity to serve the community through on-site service projects at a number of KidsDay booths.**
6. Please describe any feedback or reactions of community residents or project beneficiaries re: the youth volunteers and other program aspects. **KidsDay was tremendously successful and received praise from parents, children, KidsDay exhibitors and performers, as well as elected officials, and our school district Superintendent.**

VI. Impact of National Youth Service Day

1. If you or your organization participated in National Youth Service Day 2004, please describe any long-term changes you have observed in the last year in the behavior of youth participating, or the community’s perception of youth. **NYSD has a large number of supporters now that we are in our third year as Lead Agency. Coalition members start working on projects many months in advance and many groups have implemented year-round service into their activities. Over 2/3 of Anchorage’s households have no children. It will take some time before we see a visible change in the way many community members view our youth. We will keep working to see that change.**
2. Please describe any new activities/initiatives that resulted from National Youth Service Day 2005. **At this time we are working with coalition members who would like to make service part of their year round activities. Anchorage’s Promise is working to establish a volunteer list to help support any new projects.**
3. Please describe what type of follow-up to National Youth Service Day will occur in your community (e.g., further volunteering, policy/civic work around a particular issue, etc.) **We anticipate that many coalition members will implement year round service activities.**

VII. Media, Elected Officials, and Public Figures

4. Did your National Youth Service Day projects receive media attention? **Yes** If you did receive media coverage, please list the name and contact information of the reporter(s) that covered your project. Please include name, name of publication/station, address, phone, and e-mail address, if possible. **Articles and advertising in the Anchorage Daily News, KidsDay news coverage on our NBC affiliate, a guest spot on the Norma Goodman show (ABC), two morning radio talk shows (New Northwest Broadcasting and Morris Communications) and advertising as well as a live broadcast from KidsDay by Clear Channel Radio.**
5. How did you use the National Youth Service Day and State Farm Companies Foundation logo and where did you display it? **We used the logos on volunteer certificates, NYSD stickers, and all NYSD advertising we also displayed NYSD posters at all project sites.**
6. Did you promote NYSD on your agency's website?
 - a. If so, how did it help you in your NYSD efforts? {Please print out or provide your NYSD homepage address). **b. How many hits did you receive? Yes, we did place NYSD information on the website; however, we have no way to measure such an increase. Our web address is: www.anchoragespromise.org**
7. Were government officials and/or other public figures involved your NYSD events? Please describe who was involved (include names and titles) and how they participated (For example: Governor Owens issued a proclamation, US Senator Allard spoke at opening ceremony, the Portland Trailblazers hosted a leadership camp for the youth planning team, etc). **Yes, the following elected officials participated or were represented in NYSD 2005: Senator Lisa Murkowski – she sponsored the bill proclaiming April 15th NYSD and the proclamation was read at KidsDay; a representative for Mayor Mark Begich – also issued and read an NYSD proclamation at KidsDay and Superintendent Carol Comeau attended KidsDay.**

VII. Sharing Best Practices

1. Did your organization benefit from being a Lead Agency for National Youth Service Day 2005? **Yes No (Please elaborate) Yes - The Lead Agency grant helped fund the planning, while Lead Agency status helped to increase our coalition through added credibility.**
2. What worked well in the process of being a Lead Agency for National Youth Service Day? **Electronic collaboration and coordination of the coalition saved valuable time and money. No face to face meetings were necessary, although I did meet with many project coordinators in order to strengthen relationships. Anchorage's Promise served as the main point of contact for Alaska's NYSD and provided assistance as needed to each project; however, in order to involve as many volunteers as possible, Anchorage's Promise was only directly involved in planning the kick off event. Stepping back and encouraging coalition members to create and implement projects, recruit volunteers, and evaluate results was key to large scale involvement.**
3. Please provide one or more quotes from a youth on your coalition or community residents about their National Youth Service Day experience: **Senator Lisa Murkowski sent a letter that praised our state's youth for the valuable work they do not only on NYSD, but year round, and she encouraged adults to take notice of the positive contributions youth make to our community rather than dwell on negative stereotypes. Unfortunately I do not have an actual quote to share. Superintendent Carol Comeau stated that KidsDay (NYSD Kick-off) is the most diverse family event in Anchorage.**

4. What challenges did your organization face in serving as a Lead Agency? (please be as detailed as possible) Anchorage's Promise has the ability to reach a large number of people even with a staff of two. Incredible volunteers make much of our work possible, however, even with strong volunteers, staffing is our greatest hurdle. With only two full-time staff members, finding enough time in the day to bring Alaska's NYSD to its full potential is a major challenge. Our hope is to see growth each year, as an increased coalition will help take some of the burden of over-extended staff.
5. What support could YSA provide to help future Lead Agencies address the challenges you described above? Only increased funding can solve our staffing problem.
6. Please comment on the Field Manager's (Charles Martinez) ability to successfully address your questions/concerns and provide useful resources? How can this role be improved for 2006 Lead Agencies? Charles was incredibly helpful. He always returned phone calls and e-mail promptly. He provided assistance whenever asked.
7. What advice would you give to future Lead Agencies? See #2 under Best Practices. Start planning EARLY!
8. Please tell us your favorite story or success from National Youth Service Day. I feel that KidsDay was the highlight of our NYSD celebration. This year's attendance is estimated at 12,000 with approximately 10,000 attendees participating in an on-site service project for NYSD. Another major success was the involvement of projects from other parts of the state. Alaska is so vast, and many communities feel isolated from the rest of the country. NYSD provides an excellent opportunity for these rural communities to be part of a national movement.
9. How would you assess your overall success as a Lead Agency from a scale of 1-4 (1 being lowest and 4 being highest)
 1-not successful 2- somewhat successful 3- quite successful 4- very successful
 4. Anchorage's Promise was highly successful as Lead Agency in 2005. We tripled the number of participants we had in 2004, and increased our volunteer involvement by 300%. We were also successful in engaging projects from other parts of the state including Fairbanks, Kotzebue, and the Mat-Su Valley.
10. Other comments or suggestions: Looking forward to NYSD 2006!

Thank you for your feedback!

Please e-mail your completed evaluation to Charles Martinez, Field Manager for National Youth Service Day, at cmartinez@ysa.org by Friday, May 27th.