

## types of global action projects

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### EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

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Program events, which can be designed and led by young people, can showcase global skills and knowledge to parents and community members. These events are most effective when they provide youth with leadership roles and are used as culminating activities after in-depth explorations of countries and cultures relevant to young people in the program. Examples of such events include:

- **Community meals** with food from different cultures
- **Celebrations of holidays** that are observed in other countries or cultures
- **Art, music, or theater performances** that present traditions from other countries or cultures
- **Media showcases** where students show their photos, video, or other multimedia projects about global topics
- **Poetry or story readings** that feature ideas and topics from other countries or cultures
- **Multicultural fairs or expositions** that highlight cross-cultural artifacts and knowledge

### PEER EDUCATION

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With peer education, young people share their global skills and/or knowledge with other young people. Examples of such projects include:

- **Media or guest-speaker nights** where a youth group presents a film or other media presentation, or invites a speaker on a global topic, country, or culture they have studied. Young people can create advertisements and recruit an audience, introduce the topic, then facilitate a group discussion with speaker and audience after the main event. This type of project can be expanded into a youth-led conference with multiple speakers, workshops, and events for a youth audience from across the school, community, or even state.
- **Public awareness campaigns** on global issues. Young people can select an issue, determine the target audience, and educate and inspire their peers and others to take a specific action on a global issue—through announcements for school or local radio, posters, advertisements, or online awareness campaigns. Start by screening successful public service advertisements (PSAs) from the Ad Council and other places to get the creative juices flowing.
- **Youth-created global learning activities** can be created by older youth and shared with peers or younger children. Examples include creating children's books about a global topic or culture and reading them at a local elementary school, learning games from other countries and leading them with peers or children at a local community center, and creating plays or other performances about a global topic, country, or culture for peers or younger children.
- **Youth "ambassadors"** of a specific country or culture can take responsibility for introducing other countries and/or cultures to their peers. Young people can visit other programs or classrooms to facilitate activities and help peers or younger students learn. This type of project can be expanded to include role-playing or simulations where the youth ambassadors represent the country or culture around a specific situation or issue. (Model UN is an example of this idea.)

## COMMUNITY-FOCUSED PROJECTS

Community-focused action projects may look like typical service-learning or volunteer projects but have a global focus. Examples of such projects include:

- **Creating an asset map** of global connections, resources, and expertise in the community that can be leveraged for global learning and action.
- **Providing resources to help a global cause** through food/clothing/toy drives, penny drives, or charity events (see the website of the US Fund for UNICEF, <http://www.unicefusa.org>, for ideas).
- **Participating in a service project** that connects local and global by learning about an issue globally and taking action on the issue locally. Projects can be designed around global action days, such as Earth Day (April 22) or World AIDS Day (December 1). As an extension, youth can connect with international organizations taking action on the issue globally.

## ONLINE EXCHANGES

If your program has access to Internet technology, exchange projects can connect young people directly with peers in other countries for online collaboration around shared concerns. Examples of such projects include:

- **Collecting evidence or information** to contribute to a global research project (for examples, look up the GLOBE or JASON science projects online)
- **Joining online discussions** about global issues with young people worldwide, via message boards or chats (for examples, look up Voices of Youth or TakingITGlobal)
- **Creating photo slideshows, podcasts, or videos** about a community, culture, or issue and sharing and discussing with youth in other countries (for examples, look up Youth Media Exchange)
- **Writing news articles** about local and global issues for international exchange (young people can start their own international newspaper and/or contribute to PEARL World Youth News, created by iEARN and the Daniel Pearl Foundation)

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