

NACURH, INC.
Community Service Program of the Month
Veteran's Day Campus Clean-Up

School:	University of Washington	Region:	PACURH
Person in charge:	Teos Bisbee/Andrew Chesterfield	Nominator:	Michael Han

Target Population: 5600	Time Needed to Organize: ~20 Hrs
Number of People in Attendance: 35	Date(s) of Program: 11/11/11
Number of People Needed to Organize: 10	Cost of Program: \$300
On-Campus Population: 5600	Chapter Size: 56

Origin of Program:

The Students Expressing Environmental Dedication (SEED) has historically held campus clean-up events to beautify our campus. This year, Teos and our Executive Director, Andrew Chesterfield, decided that "We are going big, we are not going home" and we would host the largest campus clean-up in our history in recognition of Veteran's day this year.

Word Count: 54

Please give a short description of the program:

The Veteran's Day Campus Clean-Up went far beyond any clean-up before. Teos and Andrew recognized that in order to attract the maximum number of people, it was necessary to provide refreshments for them. We brought in almost a hundred dollars in muffins and trail mix and so much fresh coffee we had to borrow a car from Facilities Services (a Prius of course, in keeping with SEED's environmentalist aims). Teos, together with Andrew, put in countless hours of work planning every aspect of the event, down to exact times for set up and clean-up and mapping out positions of garbage, recycling and compost bins.

A central tent was erected in front of McCarty with food, coffee and supplies for volunteers. The tent proved to be one of the greatest successes of the program, because as residents came and went they stopped to ask what the tent was for, and the officer staffing the tent was able to recruit people to help out in this way. Volunteers gathered at the tent, where they were grouped together and sent out to pick up litter in different areas. One of the most entertaining parts of the event was finding what kind of things students lose around the residence halls. Groups developed friendly dynamics, with volunteers comparing finds and helping each other figure out what was recyclable or compostable. As the event went on and people started to get tired, they were able to go back to the main tent and get some food and coffee and warm back up.

One place where Andrew and Teos succeeded greatly in planning this program was in being prepared for every possibility. Since we live in Seattle, rain was of course likely. They prepared for this by acquiring ponchos for the occasion, which it turned out were greatly needed. The ponchos had the added benefit of serving as a makeshift uniform, and the sight of thirty-some figures clad in dark green rubber ponchos braving the elements to clean up campus was pretty cool. Andrew in specific was also effective in checking in with the various groups spread out around the area to see

who needed more tools and to distribute volunteers evenly.

Finally, to recognize the volunteers for the hard work they put in, each volunteer received a coupon for a free ice cream at Rick's, the ice cream cafe on campus.

Word Count: 395

Goals of the program:

The aim was to clear away litter from the area around two of our residence halls, McCarty and Hansee, and to clear leaves from the pathways. Since these residence halls border a large road and a main campus thoroughfare, the green spaces around them collect a large amount of litter. Also, the wooded nature of the area means the paths are perpetually covered in leaves in the fall. The goal of the program was not only to clean up the area, but to build community among the members of SEED and the residence hall community at large.

Word Count: 97

Positive and lasting effects of the program:

The area around McCarty and Hansee is certainly prettier now, there are no longer nearly as many coke bottles and candy wrappers lying by the sidewalks. And the program had a positive effect on the local environment as well, as we were able to remove several hazardous objects from the wooded areas, including sharp metal cans, several alkaline batteries, and a rusted cell phone, all of which could have posed a threat to local wildlife and the water quality of the area. The program also had a greatly positive human effect, I know I for one got to know several members of SEED better, and I met some awesome people from the residence hall community.

Word Count: 115

Short evaluation of the program:

In my opinion, the program was a clear success. Our attendance was more than triple that of last year's clean up, we cleared the majority of litter from around two residence halls, and we ended up coming in under budget. More than that, this program set a standard. It set an expectation for how future SEED events should be, both for residents and for SEED. By having this standard, we are now driven to create better and better programs. The program had the intended impact on the environment, on the residence halls, and on our organization.

Word Count: 96

How could this program be adapted to other campuses?

The beauty of a clean-up is that they are extremely portable. They can be scaled up to cover the entire campus, or scaled down to a single street. They can involve ten people or a hundred. Any place there is litter to pick up, there can be a clean-up. What makes them successful is having food for volunteers, planning for inclement weather, and making sure that everybody gets a chance to make a difference in their community.

Word Count: 77