

High School Community Outreach—At Home and Abroad

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES: (1) to develop in students a passion for community service and (2) to encourage student leadership in community events

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM

C.S. Lewis Academy has always been committed to promoting a passion for community service. In keeping with this vision, we have developed an outreach program that involves every student of the high school, gives opportunity for student leadership, and reaches out to local, national, and even international communities.

Quarterly, we send out the high school students on local service projects. The projects have included working at rescue missions, serving

lunch to senior citizens, volunteering at a shelter for battered women and children, collecting food for the local food pantry, doing yard work for the elderly, building with Habitat for Humanity, packaging Bibles to be sent throughout the world, working with the community parks and recreation department, and much more.

We divide the students into small groups and then assign a teacher or parent volunteer, or both, and a project that will entail four to five hours of service. Before the students leave the school for their workday, they participate in a school chapel and devote time to prayer for the community they serve.

As students mature, we ask them to look for opportunities to serve a wider base of community. Last year's junior class participated in a beach cleanup day on the Oregon coast. For several years the senior classes have gone abroad to minister in third-world communities. This international work

has included volunteering at an orphanage for handicapped and abandoned children in Mexico, organizing vacation Bible school in Antigua, and participating in hurricane relief in the Bahamas. This past fall the student body president went on a weeklong rebuilding trip after Hurricane Katrina. He used his construction skills to help begin the reconstruction of a church building through DELTA Ministries International. Following the Katrina trip, two of our graduates committed themselves to six months of reconstruction work in

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Without fail, our students demonstrate the Lord's loving compassion as they reach out to their communities. Lives are touched, and not just the lives of those they serve. Our students are changed by the opportunity to give of themselves. They come back from their projects, bubbling over with enthusiasm and desiring to share their experiences with others.

Introduction to community service begins in our grade school, continues in a more developed format in the middle school, and becomes a major focus at the high school level. This year the high school students will be including the middle school students in two of their outreach events. As the two groups of students work together, the older students have a chance to pass on their spirit of service.

Students lead much of the high school program. A student with a heart for service and the gift of organization

is appointed student outreach coordinator. This student works with the student leadership advisor to plan each local outreach event. Together they contact the organizations that provide service opportunities, arrange parent volunteers, and set up the outreach groups. The student outreach coordinator promotes the service day, presents the projects to the students, and collects feedback after the event.

We assign a student leader to each outreach group. The leaders promote a Christlike attitude of service in their group, and they assist the supervising adult in maintaining group focus and ensuring accomplishment of the project goals. Because the groups are small, a large number of students get the opportunity to serve as leaders.

The High School Community Outreach program is a highlight at C.S. Lewis Academy. Every year brings new ideas and opportunities for growth in our students. The students serve, lead, follow, grow, and learn the true meaning of Christ's words (Matthew 25:40, KJV), "As ye have done it unto one of the least of these ..."

SCHOOL PROFILE

Grade Levels: PK–12

Enrollment: 200

Year Founded: 1985

Chief Administrator: Wade Witherspoon

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