

● SPOTLIGHT

National Summer Learning Day — July 10, 2008



During the months of summer, many American families enjoy enriching activities such as trips to museums, parks, and libraries, and camp for their children.

However, when school doors close, scores of other children struggle to access educational opportunities, and even basic needs such as healthy meals and adequate adult supervision.

Research has shown that young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer. In the fall, teachers typically spend six weeks (or more) revisiting material that students covered the previous year, just to bring them up to speed.

Two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower- and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities. As a result, low-income youth are less likely to graduate from high school or enter college.

To help counter the effects of "summer slide," parents can structure a summer vacation that balances work and play, and can plan to celebrate Summer Learning Day on Thursday, July 10.

● RESOURCES

School's Out For Summer... Or Is It?

Think outside the box this summer with fun and educational opportunities for youth.



Use the following resources to ensure that out-of-school activities are productive as well as enjoyable.

Lending Library:

[School-Age Ideas and Activities for After-School Programs](#)

[Half a Childhood: Quality Programs for Out-of-School Hours](#)

[Program Activities - Fostering the Development of the School Age Child](#)

[Human Side of Quality: Making the Most of Out-of-School Time](#)

[Links to Learning: A Curriculum Guide for After-School Programs](#)

Effective Practices Collection:

[Planning activities for out-of-school programs](#)

[Using community-based service-learning as a strategy during out-of-school time](#)

[Creating effective surroundings](#)

● ANNOUNCEMENTS

2008 National Conference on Disability Inclusion and National Service

Acting Today to Shape the Future

October 16–18, 2008
Alexandria, VA



This conference will inspire current and future leaders to direct the future shape of disability inclusion in national service, and enhance the ethics of service and volunteering in the disability community.

- Explore the latest trends in the disability community and their application to service environment
- Identify innovative strategies and promising practices for future activities and initiatives
- Share successful practices and lessons learned from national service programs that engage people with disabilities
- Foster deeper collaboration between the disability and service communities

Summer Learning Day is a time for communities across the nation to mark the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young people and their families.

In 2007, Summer Learning Day included 145 registered events in 34 states and a national policy forum in Washington, DC. Visit www.summerlearning.org.

[for out-of-school programs](#)

[Developing positive social interactions in out-of-school programs](#)

Other Resources:

[Beyond Fun and Games: Tips and Resources for Summer Programs](#)

- Recognize individuals and organizations that have advanced the ideal that Americans with disabilities are valuable contributors to their communities

Get more information and register here: [National Service Inclusion Project](#).

NEW RESOURCE CENTER SITE!

Have you seen our [new look](#)? We've rebuilt the site with a fresh approach based on a user perspective:

- Easier to find resources
- Simpler navigation
- "Browse" by topics of interest
- RSS feeds and bookmarking
- Connect/share with field

ONLINE LEARNING CENTER

[Free e-courses](#) on a wide variety of topics are designed specifically to help strengthen national service programs.

Featured course: [Project Planning](#). Explore the steps to developing projects that put volunteers in the middle of the community and result in measurable community impact.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICES COLLECTION

[Effective practices](#) define good ideas, successful strategies, and studied findings to help your program thrive.

Featured practice: [Using volunteer motivations for effective mentor recruitment and retention](#). Submitted by LEARNS at the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

ABOUT THE RESOURCE CENTER

The Resource Center is a training and technical assistance provider funded by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) to support volunteer and service programs across the nation. Visit us today to search, browse, download, order, and borrow from among thousands of specialized resources. Click here to [subscribe](#) to this e-newsletter. To [unsubscribe](#), send an e-mail to lyris@lists.etr.org with ***unsubscribe nsrnews*** in the body of the message.

Resource Center | www.nationalservice.gov/resources | 800-860-2684 | resourcecenter@etr.org