



The Maine Commission for Community Service

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For Immediate Release

October 6, 2009

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Monetary Awards for Service Learning Projects Available

Time Warner Cable and the Maine Commission for Community Service are excited to offer Maine Schools and community programs, working with children (k-12), Service Learning Project Awards of \$1,000 or \$4,000 focused on STEM activities (science, technology, engineering, math).

Projects should address a local community need while developing students' academic skills in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Projects should also provide students the opportunity to reflect on civic responsibility and the impact of their service.

Additional information and applications can be obtained online at VolunteerMaine.org or www.maineservicecommission.gov. Interested organizations can simply fill out the spreadsheet application by answering 5 questions about the proposed project and budget. The \$1,000 award has a required cash or in-kind match of 1,000\$ and the \$4,000 award has a required cash or in-kind match of 4,000\$. The match can be created by donations of supplies from the school or program, time spent working on the project, the use of space at a community center or in the school, donations from the community and in many other ways.

Applications are due on **November 13, 2009 by 12noon**. Please email your spreadsheet application to Rochelle Runge at rochelle.runge@maine.gov. Decisions will be made by a panel of community members. Applicants will be notified of the decision no later than November 30, 2009.

Service Learning in Maine combines community service with classroom instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and civic responsibility to engage students. Service learning programs involve students in activities that address local needs while developing their academic skills and commitment to their community. Research done here in New England, including in Maine schools, shows the impact that Service Learning has on students:

- 80% of students reported that they were more sure they wanted to graduate high school and complete a college degree,
- 79% believe they can make a difference in their community, and
- 73% reported that they learned to accept responsibility for their actions.¹

The Maine Commission for Community Service builds capacity and sustainability in Maine's volunteer sector by funding service programs, developing volunteer managers, raising awareness, and encouraging an ethic of service. To learn more about the Maine Commission for Community Service visit our web-site at www.maineservicecommission.gov.

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¹ Center for Youth and Communities, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, *Assessing the Impact of the KIDS Consortium, KIDS Living Democracy, and First Year KIDSCAN Programs: First Year Findings*, (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University, December 2005.)