

Youthline

Environmental Committee Manual



Context:

why do we need Environmental Committee?

Youthlinc's mission is "to create lifetime humanitarians". Humanitarian is a person promoting human welfare. Since environment includes land, water, air and all living things (including people), then care of environment is an integral part of human welfare.

The focus of Environmental Committee is on educating the team about the importance of caring for environment and about the various threats and potential solutions locally and globally.

Prior to the trip, members of the committee promote greater awareness through presentations and discussions during monthly team meetings, short "environmental" messages for the team, and inter-committee cooperation to include "environmental" flavor into all aspects of Youthlinc activities. In cooperation with in-country hosts we develop awareness activities and short projects dealing with various local environmental issues, as well as longer term sustainable solutions. Emphasis is on hands-on learning experiences.

Committee Goals:

1. Extend participants awareness of the bigger World- new country, people, culture, respect for others, customs and cultural difference and environmental issues
2. Raise awareness of the environment around us and possible ways for improvements
 - a. Home/personal
 - b. Local
 - c. Global
3. Help communities to become more self-sufficient and be more environmentally conscious.
4. Provide an environmental lens or focus for other committee work throughout the year.

Committee Strategies and Timeline:

Develop an interface with other Committees:

List and suggest connections. Incorporate an “environmental plus element” into the committee workshops. What educational and project items need to be shared among committees

- Education – English camp, recommend a list of environmental issues and topics for lessons to be thought in the host country. List topics on a sign-up for all team members. See section 2.
- Vocational – develop joint projects – re-purposing recycled materials, etc
- Business-- how do our business choices affect the environment— “positive and negative externalities” leading *towards sustainability*
- Community health (i.e. focus on our team here in Utah—environmental impact and/or sustainability of what we are doing and taking over; example - reusable feminine hygiene kits
- Cultural – use list of suggested questions for Home visits, and list of Reflection questions, See section 2

Presentations by member(s) of Environmental Committee:

Short and interesting topic on environmental issue – local or global, for each meeting. Presentation should include visuals, or hands-on idea. Be well prepared, rehearsed, and last about ten minutes, questions and short discussion welcome. Presenter should announce a topic for next month.

- Home inventory – what is my footprint? Energy use, Transportation, Food & waste, Paper use (count), Packaging, what do I (my family) recycle, reuse?
- Overview of the host country site. What are environmental challenges there?
- My city or county – Environmental awareness, threats to environment. Who is setting regulations? Water, Air, Health issues, who is polluting, who is recycling
- National perspectives – How are we doing as a country? What agencies provide directions, regulate, and solve problems?

International – Overview of World problems. Amazon, Oceans, Desertification, etc. Discuss host country specific problems and solutions that will help the team develop awareness.

January

- Overview of the host country site. What are environmental challenges there?
- **Youthlinc- committee workshop-** Youthlinc hosts committee specific workshops this month. Here, you'll learn about what has and hasn't worked with your committee in previous years.
- Review projects and identify question or needed info to plan the projects
- Read last year committee report, the end of year summary from your team and advice from previous Youthlinc teams
- Using information from your Team Leader, the ISD in charge of your site and the In-Country Coordinator, talk about the Environmental needs and types projects the village has requested
- Make sure everyone has each other's contact information. Decide as a committee the way that will work best for you to all keep in touch. Whatever you agree on as a committee you need to follow through with consistently throughout the Service Year.

February

- Home inventory – what is my footprint? Energy use, Transportation, Food & waste, Paper use (count), Packaging, what do I (my family) recycle, reuse?
- Foot print calculator link- shows team members how many worlds we would need if everyone lived like them.
 - <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>
- My city or county – Environmental awareness, threats to environment. Who is setting regulations? Water, Air, Health issues, who is polluting, who is recycling?
- How does the environment affect our Health?
- Travel Health Clinic at the University of Utah
- Meet with your team and report back about research or information you have gathered about environmental issues or projects you are planning.

Team Retreat

- Work with your team leader for more details about a team retreat or activity
- Help your team to plan ways to be environmentally conscious during the retreat:
 - Bring a reusable water bottle
 - Recycle- use recyclable dinner ware
 - Suggest doing an environmental local service project (weather permitting)
- Review items from previous team meeting
- Think about how to be deliver your project: what lessons, how many will need to be taught? What activities could you do? What projects fit the needs of your international site?

March

- National perspectives – How are we doing as a country? What agencies provide directions, regulate, and solve problems?
- BBBS clothing drive-
 - These clothing donations fund your Committee Projects, work with your team leader to figure out your committees' budget.
- Review and follow up on items from February
- Begin planning Projects: see section 2 for examples

April

- International – Overview of World problems. Amazon, Oceans, Desertification, etc. Discuss host country specific problems and solutions that will help the team develop awareness.
- Review and follow up on items from March
- Plan and carry out supply drives and start gathering supplies
- Work with your team leader and ISD to purchase necessary supplies that can be bought in country.
- Present any committee needs to the rest of the team.
- Practice your project/lesson!

May

- Review and follow up on items from March
- Finalize all projects and lesson plans
- Work with your team leader to schedule necessary time for your committee

June/ July- Packing meetings

- Help ensure that we are packing minimum plastic and anything that cannot be properly disposed should be brought back with you.

Section two:

Volunteering – Develop a list of sites and activities that deal with environmental issues. Suggestions: Red Butte Garden, Salt Lake ZOO, Sierra Club – Utah chapter, Tree Utah ...

Past Project ideas:

Projects:

Projects from ICC- Let the ICC speak with community. What are their main priorities? Once you have a request prepare initial plan and coordinate with ICC. Preparation and Education is very important to ensure team and community buy in and eventually executions.

- Lessons for English/stem Camp
- Provide an awareness message, activities, lessons or organize a community discussion about local environmental issues on site. The following are a few examples:
 - Together you can recognize collective strengths and weakness. This is a great way to learn from each other.
 - PSA about: littering and proper disposal of waste
 - Eco bricks
 - Building and running square foot gardens
 - Composting
 - Deforestation and conservation
 - Erosion prevention
 - Water sanitation
 - Food security
 - Nursery for: trees, vegetation, fruit trees, Trees for fuel or product resources
 - Fish Hatchery or livestock resources, Animal exchange program
 - Recycle, reuse, repurpose
 - Beekeeping