

Section 10

Frequently Asked Questions: Navy Community Service Program

Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship

Question: What is the purpose of the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship?

Answer: The Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship is a partnership effort among Navy commands, public and private sector organizations, schools, and youth groups to improve scholastic achievement, social, and life skills and provide vocational guidance. Navy personnel may volunteer to assist with tutoring, mentoring, sharing information with teachers, supporting special school programs (career days, sports days, Red Ribbon celebrations), and encouraging students.

The Navy Community Service Program encourages Flagship Partnerships to assist in the education and enrichment of the nation's youth and communities and in revitalizing citizenry. Navy commands are encouraged to join with other military services, businesses, labor, foundations, colleges and universities, religious organizations, media groups, community organizations, health care centers, and Government agencies in developing a collective vision of community needs and commitment to share responsibilities and resources to address them.

Question: What is the difference between a partnership and adopting a school?

Answer: Most people use the terms interchangeably. The term "adoption" suggests that the adopter will take care of all the needs of the adopted organization. Navy commands do not have the authority or the resource to commit to the adoption of an organization. The term "partnership" implies a shared responsibility, with the possibility of cooperation between several community organizations to improve education and opportunities for youth.

Question: Is the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship a recruiting initiative?

Answer: The Navy Personal Excellence Partnership Program is not a recruiting program. This program is intended to demonstrate the Navy's commitment to the

nation's future by contributing to the development of young people in order that youth be better qualified to enter the labor market.

Question: Does this program apply only to Navy commands or can individuals and organizations participate?

Answer: The Navy has a long tradition of encouraging individual members to contribute to the development of their communities through volunteer service. The focus of the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship, however, is on Navy commands or activities, whose personnel resources can be focused on addressing the needs of a Flagship Partner. The Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship is not intended to replace or discourage individual volunteer efforts, rather it is aimed at increasing the effectiveness of individual service members by combining efforts into a stronger, coordinated, focused endeavor. Furthermore, only command-sponsored partnerships are authorized for personnel release time during normal working hours, provide for volunteer liability, and are eligible for submission to the Navy Community Service Award program.

Question: What paperwork is involved in a Personal Excellence Partnership?

Answer: The primary paperwork consists of (1) a signed partnership agreement between the Commanding Officer, the Command Coordinator and the Flagship Partners, (2) a statement that volunteer screening has been conducted, and (3) authorization for approved command members to participate in a command Personal Excellence Partnership. The authorization consists of the name and social security number of Navy personnel approved to participate in the Navy Community Service Program and Flagship Partnerships.

Question: To whom should I direct questions regarding the Navy Community Service Award?

Answer: You should direct your questions to the Attendant Geographic/Regional and Local Area Coordinator, the Flagship Sponsor, or to Navy Personnel Command (PERS-605).

Question: What happens if the Navy partner is a ship that deploys? Can a Flagship Partnership still exist if the Navy member is deployed?

Answer: If the command is deployed, do not avoid or terminate a Flagship Partnership. The focus of the activities will need to be adjusted to address the needs of the command and the needs of the Flagship Partner. Possible alternatives include establishing a pen

Navy Community Service Program

pal program, sharing pictures or videos of the new location for use in geography classes, writing letters that describe life on board a ship or submarine, or describing cultural traditions encountered in foreign ports.

Question: How much time does it take to support a Flagship Partnership?

Answer: The time required to support a Flagship Partnership depends upon the activities that the command agreed to support when the partnership was established. Care should be taken when establishing the goals and plan of action. Flagship Partnerships should utilize available resources. If a Navy command finds that it has over-extended itself in the partnership, the Command Coordinator should contact the Flagship Partner to arrange to renegotiate partnership activities. The average volunteer spends approximately two hours a week on the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship.

Question: How many volunteers are needed to have a partnership?

Answer: The number of volunteers needed for a Flagship Partnership depends upon the partnership activities that the command agreed to support when the partnership was established. If command size or volunteer participation varies significantly, partnership activities can be renegotiated with the Flagship Partner to reflect the commands available resources.

Question: Who is the Flagship Sponsor for the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship?

Answer: The Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship Sponsor is the Assistant Chief of Naval Personnel for Personnel Readiness and Community Support (Pers-605).

Question: Does Navy provide any guidance for operating a partnership?

Answer: The Navy guidance consist of OPNAVINST 5350.6A, which provides policy and implementation requirements as well as the Navy Community Service Program Guidebook. The Community Service Newsletters are issued regularly to update the Command Coordinator on Navy activities.

Health Safety And Fitness Flagship

Question: Is the Health Safety and Fitness Flagship a separate program or is it part of the Personal Excellence Partnership Program?

Answer: The Health Safety and Fitness Flagship is a distinct component of the Navy Community Service Program, however, aspects of health and nutrition, physical fitness and sports are included in the goals of the Personal Excellence Partnership Flagship. The Chief of Naval Education and Training (CNET), the Flagship Sponsor, has prepared a Health Safety and Fitness curriculum which is a valuable asset for Navy commands to offer Flagship Partners. The program stands on its own and may be used with recreation centers, after school programs for kids, neighborhood sports programs, or youth group programs.

Question: Where can I get a copy of the Health Safety and Fitness curriculum?

Answer: Contact CNET, Code 00K, 250 Dallas Street, Pensacola, FL 32508-5100 and request a set of the Health Safety and Fitness booklets.

Question: Can I use the exercises and test that are used by the Navy for Physical Readiness Training (PRT) with children and youth?

Answer: While there is no reason that the exercises from the Navy's PRT could not be used with youth, the actual PRT should not be used as a fitness indicator. The scoring tables the Navy uses for the PRT are not appropriate for school-aged children.

Question: Do Special Olympics, Little League, and neighborhood soccer fall under the Health Safety and Fitness Flagship?

Answer: The programs support the goals and objectives of the Health Safety and Fitness Flagship. The command is encouraged to support these types of programs as part of the Health Safety and Fitness initiatives.

Question: Are Health Safety and Fitness programs long term like Personal Excellence Partnerships?

Answer: Health Safety and Fitness projects and activities may be either long or short term. For instance, using the CNET curriculum with a youth recreation center would be a long-term project while assisting with local Special Olympics competitions would be a short-term project.

Question: Does a command need a written agreement for a Health Safety and Fitness Flagship Partnership?

Navy Community Service Program

Answer: It is a good idea to have a written agreement so that everyone clearly understands commitments, obligations, and operating requirements. Regardless of whether or not there is a written agreement, commands still need to screen participating members to ensure that volunteers are good role models and will represent the command. Volunteers should receive written confirmation authorizing participation in the Flagship Partnership.

Environmental Stewardship Flagship

Question: What is the purpose of the Environmental Stewardship Flagship?

Answer: The purpose of the Environmental Stewardship Flagship is to educate youth and families on domestic and international environmental initiatives and to encourage communities to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the environment.

Question: Who is the Flagship Sponsor for the Environmental Stewardship Flagship?

Answer: The Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics) (N4) is the Flagship Sponsor.

Question: What is environmental justice?

Answer: Environmental Justice has been defined by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice as "the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies." The goal of this "fair treatment" is intended to identify potentially disproportionately high and adverse effects and identify alternatives that may mitigate these impacts.

Question: Who is responsible for issues related to environmental justice?

Answer: Each federal agency is responsible for addressing the issue of environmental justice as part of the agency's mission. The Department of Defense (DOD) developed a Strategy on Environmental Justice that identifies major programs and areas of emphasis. Goals include the promotion of partnerships with stakeholders and identifying impacts of DOD activities on minority and low-income populations.

The Environmental Justice program is overseen by the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The program is a result of Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. The order dated February 11, 1994, is intended to promote nondiscrimination in federal programs affecting human health and the environment, and to provide minority communities and low-income communities access to public information on, and an opportunity to participate in, matters relating to human health and the environment.

Navy Community Service Program

Furthermore, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires each federal agency to ensure that all programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance that affect human health or the environment do not directly, or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria, methods, or practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin.

The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. Section 321 et. seq. and provisions in the Installation Restoration program that pertain to Restoration Advisory Boards, provides opportunity to address environmental justice issues. There is an emphasis on providing for public participation and conducting analysis on environmental effects that include human health, economic and social effects, or federal actions that include effects on minority communities and low-income communities.

Steps the Navy has taken to implement the DOD strategy include: translating documents into additional languages, providing interpreters at public meetings, posting environmental warning signs in additional languages, establishing an internet home page (www.enviro.navy.mil), and developing partnerships with local communities. The Navy Community Service Program encourages partnerships and outreach efforts to address community issues.

For additional information, contact the Chief of Naval Operations (N441E4),

Navy Facilities Engineering Command, Washington Navy Yard, Atten: PLN, 1322 Patterson Ave S.E., Ste 1000, Washington, DC 20374-5065, phone number (202) 685-9186, DSN 325-9186, fax (202) 20374-5065, or the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Environmental Justice, Mail Stop 3103A, 401 M Street S.W., Washington, DC 20460, phone (202) 564-2515, fax (202) 501-0740, and toll free number (800) 962-6215.

Campaign Drug Free Flagship

Question: Who participates in the Campaign Drug Free Flagship?

Answer: This Flagship is sponsored by the Director of Naval Reserve and primarily uses Navy and Marine Corps volunteers to deliver the message to students to refrain from experimenting or using drugs or alcohol. It is possible, however, for an active duty sailor to participate in the program under specific circumstances. Speakers need to be trained and must have access to the videos that are used to support the program.

Question: Is Campaign Drug Free a drug demand education reduction program?

Answer: Campaign Drug Free is not a long-term education program. This drug demand reduction program provides young people with Navy role models in exciting military careers who motivate the students to abstain from using drugs if they wish to qualify for jobs like the speaker's. It makes the students look ahead to their possibilities and gives them the information they need to make those possibilities realities.

Question: How do I set up a Campaign Drug Free presentation for a Flagship Partnership between the command and a school or youth organization?

Answer: Contact the nearest Naval Reserve activity or call 1-800-554-4542 to locate a presenter. You may also email your request to cdf@cnrf.nola.navy.mil.

Question. If my partnership school has a Drug and Alcohol Resistance Education (DARE) Program, Red Ribbon Program, or other comprehensive drug demand reduction education program for its students, would a Campaign Drug Free presentation be "overkill?"

Answer: Campaign Drug Free presentations complement other drug demand reduction education initiatives. The Command Coordinator is encouraged to schedule a Campaign Drug Free presentation to reinforce other school drug and alcohol prevention efforts.

Project Good Neighbor Flagship

Question: What is the purpose of the Project Good Neighbor Flagship?

Answer: The Project Good Neighbor Flagship consists of basic humanitarian relief and assistance. This includes helping out at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter; donating used clothing and food items to the needy; visiting and helping the sick or elderly; repairing and fixing up schools, orphanages, or group foster homes; and assisting communities after a natural disaster.

Question: Is Project Good Neighbor a year-round program?

Project Good Neighbor Flagship projects and activities may occur at any time, some commands like to focus efforts on specific occasions like holidays, Make A Difference Day, Day of Caring, National Volunteer Week, Christmas in April, and other recurring volunteer celebrations.

Question: Do volunteers need to be screened for Project Good Neighbor Flagship projects and activities?

Answer: Volunteers should always be screened to ensure that they are suitable for the activity they will be supporting and are good representatives of the Navy. Furthermore, all volunteers should be designated in writing as participants of a command sponsored volunteer event. This will ensure that volunteer liability is covered in the event that the volunteer is involved in an accident during the Project Good Neighbor Flagship project or activity.

Question: Can Navy commands promote fund-raising activities to support a humanitarian relief effort as a Project Good Neighbor Flagship project or activity?

Answer: Navy commands may not promote fund-raising for a Flagship Partnership project or activity. The only fund-raising that Navy commands can engage in are those that support the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society and the Combined Federal Campaign.

Question: Where can I get ideas for Project Good Neighbor projects and activities?

Answer: Contact the local Navy Chaplain, the Attendant Geographic/Regional and Local Area Coordinator, the community's Volunteer Action Center, or a local relief agency such as the United Way or the American Red Cross.

Navy Community Service Program

Question: Who is the Flagship Sponsor for the Project Good Neighbor Flagship?

Answer: The Project Good Neighbor Flagship Sponsor is the Chief of Chaplains of the Navy.