



Contact: Allyson Graul
(757) 838-2330

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Hampton and Newport News Afterschool Programs Participating in Global Youth Day

On April 15, 2016, 400 middle school students from **Hampton and Newport News Afterschool Youth Programs** will participate in an afternoon of community service events and activities at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center (570 McLawhorne Drive) from 4:30 – 8:00 p.m. They will discover the importance of “giving back” and making a difference in their local community and across the globe as they join with young people around the world in celebrating **Global Youth Service Day (GYSD)**, which is the largest service event in the world. The event will also highlight the important role that afterschool programs play in inspiring learning and leadership in the young people they serve, by offering innovative, hands-on learning opportunities that differ from what is offered during the traditional school day.

Youth participants will attend one of thirteen, twenty minute long “issue stations” where they will learn about a local or global issue and its impact through videos, speakers, and group discussion. Issues include world hunger, veterans, childhood illness, illiteracy, homelessness, youth in foster care, animal adoption, and bullying, to name a few. Youth will then participate in an immediate, hands-on service project related to that issue. For example, at one station, youth will learn about world hunger, and then participate in bagging nutritious meals for 3rd world countries (www.stophungernow.org). At another station, youth will learn about the causes and emotional impacts of childhood illness, and then make ‘no-sew’ security blankets to be distributed to terminally ill children in our community (www.projectlinus.org).

This event is a collaboration between several Virginia Peninsula organizations providing quality afterschool programs for children. Partners include Alternatives, Inc., C Waldo Scott Center, Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, Hampton City Schools 21st Century Programs, Hampton Family YMCA, Hampton 4-H, Hampton School Age Programs, Hampton Parks and Recreation, Inspiring Minds Youth Development Center, Newport News Schools 21st Century Programs, Newport News Parks, Recreation, and Tourism, and the YH Thomas Community Center.

For more information, contact Allyson Graul at Alternatives, Inc: 757-838-2330

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