



Celebrate and Reflect

Completing an important project provides the perfect occasion to celebrate and reflect on the experience. Celebrations are an essential part of the process! In fact, they are a necessity. Setting aside time to share and enjoy the moment makes the hard work and time involved even more rewarding (and fun). It gives students a strong sense of individual and team accomplishment, provides a venue to show off results and builds enthusiasm for future projects. It also provides an opportunity for reflection, allowing students to take a closer look at their specific role and how skills gained can help build their résumé! Here are some ideas to help maximize celebrations and reflection.

Celebration Ideas

- ◆ Individually or via work groups, recognize students for what they specifically accomplished (such as teamwork demonstrated, leadership assumed or organizational skills implemented) in front of the entire SkillsUSA chapter.
- ◆ Host an appreciation circle. Individually each participant takes the chair at the “head” of the circle and all of the other participants recognize that person very specifically for his or her contributions to the project. Every member of the group takes a turn at the “head” of the circle.
- ◆ Host a fun activity at a local facility (bowling alley, miniature golf, swimming pool).
- ◆ Post photos and names of students on a bulletin board in the classroom or around campus.
- ◆ Put an announcement in the school bulletin, newsletter or Web page.
- ◆ Hang posters in the classroom with photographs and names of students involved.
- ◆ Recognize participants at a school assembly, faculty meeting or school board meeting.
- ◆ Have the current committee members create a challenge for next year’s members.
- ◆ Have a jar available in the classroom or office where students can write notes of appreciation to each other for peer recognition.
- ◆ Create and post a progress chart in the classroom to include “praise” notes to helpers.
- ◆ Write thank-you notes to everyone who helped.
- ◆ Use “Wordles” (wordle.net) to create affirmative descriptors of helpers.
- ◆ Conduct a raffle with a cool prize at the wrap-up meeting.

Reflection Ideas

- ◆ Practice writing a résumé using skills learned from the community service project. (Several websites have examples for students to use as a guide. A few of these include: bestsampleresume.com, resumetemplates.com, resumewritingsample.com.)
- ◆ Use “Wordles” to help students identify what they have learned.
- ◆ As a group, create a “Top 10” list for the project and post in the classroom.
- ◆ Have students create a “Top 10” list to send to the project partner.