Weekly Newsletter

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3/8/2019

Mail - New Entry: Norm DeLong Education Award Application

Angela Pierce <apierce@najanet.org>

New Entry: Norm DeLong Education Award Application
1 message

National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc. <no-reply@najanet.org> Fri, Mar 8, 2019 at 10:25 AM
To: apierce@najanet.org

Chapter Name
Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, MS

Submitted by Name and Email Address
Christie Sledge, christiedill@hotmail.com

Chapter Address
PO Box 194
Cleveland, MS
38732

Education Chairman
Heather Sledge

Population Category
under 15,000

Name of Project
Character Counts

Cost of Project
650

Number of Active Members Involved
20

Number of Active Chapter Members
Number of People Served
61

Description of Need for Project
Norma-DeLong-Education-Entry-Need.docx

Digital Photo
JA-CC-2018-.2.jpg

Project Summary

Project Evaluation
Norma-DeLong-Education-Entry-eval.docx

Sent from National Association of Junior Auxiliaries, Inc.
Norma DeLong Education Entry
2018-2019

Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, MS
PO Box 194
Cleveland, MS 38732

Population Category: under 15,000

Project Name: Character Counts

Category: B

Total Hours of Service Given by Members: 52

Active Membership of Chapter: 40

Number of Members Participating: 18

Purpose of Project: To instill in children the 6 pillars of good character which will provide a basis for all choices in life

Cost of the Project: $650

Number of Persons Served: 61 fifth graders

Every year, the U.S. President, U.S. Senate, state governors, and officials around the world proclaim the third week in October as CHARACTER COUNTS! week. Many schools all over the world participate in this week by educating their children on core ethical and social values. Our schools in Cleveland did not have a specific program planned, so our Character Builders committee decided to help implement a character education session in one of the local schools. Our Chapter had the opportunity to represent Junior Auxiliary in Pearman Elementary School during CHARACTER COUNTS! week and selected their fifth-grade class to participate in the character education sessions. Giving students the chance to be exposed to character education, involved with citizens with upstanding character, and able to interact with other students in a welcoming and interactive environment will help increase the moral character of students.
The foundation for CHARACTER COUNTS! is the development of the core ethical traits that are referred to as the Six Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring and Citizenship. Our Character Builders committee met several times to work on developing an interactive session to represent each pillar. Each one-hour session was opened with a discussion about the specific character pillar that was being highlighted that day. Junior Auxiliary members asked the fifth graders engaging questions that brought forth their prior knowledge of the character traits. This allowed the students to be directly involved with the Junior Auxiliary members and gave an open line of communication. This open communication helped to promote the understanding between the chapter members and the students. After the whole group open dialogue, the Junior Auxiliary members would lead into an activity, which would then lead to small group time for some interpersonal activities on a smaller scale. The small group time consisted of five to six students and one to two Junior Auxiliary members.

In the opening session of CHARACTER COUNTS! the Junior Auxiliary members introduced themselves and told the students about our organization and what we stood for. Members explained what our organization would be doing over the next week, and made sure to let the students know that we were there for them and excited to be able to spend this time with them and get to know them. After introductions Junior Auxiliary members explained a challenge that was going to be given to the students. Our Character Builders committee put up a large tree on the wall in the cafeteria so it could easily be seen. It was called the “Character Tree”. Members explained that their teachers were going to be given hearts to represent when a good character trait was shown. Their teachers were going to be able to give students these hearts when they displayed any of the pillars of character. The students were going to be able to put their names on these hearts and place them on the tree. Junior Auxiliary members challenged the students: if/when they filled their Character Counts tree with hearts, our
Chapter would come back and have another donut party to celebrate their displays of good character. This was the perfect way to kick off our CHARACTERCOUNTS! week at Pearman Elementary.

In the first session, we focused on Respect and Caring. Junior Auxiliary members asked the children in their small groups to give examples of respectful or nice things that they would say to each other, or to their teachers. One of the activities that followed this small group time was a “Compliment Circle”. Students broke into groups of ten and sat in the circle; each student gave a compliment to another student within the group and then, that student had to respond with “Thank you”. Many children do not know how to give/take a compliment and respond respectfully. Junior Auxiliary members were able to model how to give and receive a genuine compliment gracefully.

The Citizenship and Responsibility pillar sessions were given a very interactive spin that would allow the students involved to promote these character traits. The Junior Auxiliary members engaged in conversation with the children different and unique ways to be responsible citizens in the community and their school. Through this open dialogue Junior Auxiliary members were able to get to know the students better and see a glimpse inside their personal life through the students’ real life examples of responsibility. The culminating activity of these two pillars was for students to create their own backpack flair that included words kind words. Students were excited to create their own personal flair and attach it to their backpacks. Students were able to see words of encouragement, e.g. be kind, on a daily basis.

For Trustworthiness and Fairness, the Junior Auxiliary members discussed with the students in a large whole group how important it is for people to trust you and for you to be fair to one another. When the students broke off into their small groups, they completed a “Helium Hoop” activity. In small groups of six, students held a hula hoop at shoulder height; the first group to lower the hoop to the ground without dropping it won a prize. It was much more challenging than presumed. Members encouraged students to discuss a strategy with each other and to trust other’s advice on how to work
together to get the hoop lowered. Junior Auxiliary members worked as “encouragers” during this activity, and solely promoted team work.

At the close of the CHARACTER COUNTS! week, Junior Auxiliary members provided the fifth graders a donut party to celebrate and to review the pillars of character that were talked about throughout the week. The fifth graders at Pearman Elementary worked extremely hard and were able to earn another donut party right before Christmas break because of their displays of the CHARACTER COUNTS! pillars of character.

Students enjoyed activities and engaging with JA members in learning about the six pillars of character. We will continue this project in another school next year.

*The character and conduct of our youth reflect the character and conduct of society; therefore, every adult has the responsibility to teach and model the core ethical values and every social institution has the responsibility to promote the development of good character. (source: charactercounts.org/history/)*
Norma DeLong Education Entry
2018-2019

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Cleveland, MS 38732

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Cost of the Project: $650

Number of Persons Served: 61 fifth graders

Project Evaluation:

Students enjoyed activities and engaging with JA members in learning about the six pillars of character. Teachers reported students displayed character traits which we discussed and taught students. We will continue this project in another school next year.

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