



*Today's Kids. Tomorrow's Leaders.*

## **A Gift of Giving**

**A Gift of Giving** is a Camp Fire USA program designed to involve youth in volunteer activities that promote learning and community service. This program gives youth the opportunity to voice their concerns about community needs and social issues. It helps them develop researching, critical thinking, reading, and writing skills, while it promotes leadership and high self-esteem. A Gift of Giving is a comprehensive educational program that touches the lives of adolescents, as well as the adults and community organizations that help facilitate the program.

### **The goals of “A Gift of Giving” are as follows:**

- Increase awareness of community
- Youth participate in the initiation, planning and execution of service projects
- Engages youth in a progression of positive experiences that foster volunteerism
- Provides meaningful reflection and analysis of final outcomes

### **Program Outcomes: Youth Impact:**

- Focus thinking on needs in community
- Instill confidence in developing ideas and abilities
- Increase understand and empathy for others
- Enhance cooperative learning and leadership skills
- Practice making appropriate decisions that result in positive consequences

### **Related Outcomes for Communities:**

- Refocus from intervention to prevention
- Turn family energy into community synergy
- Provide opportunities for collaborations between neighborhoods, community based organizations, corporations, and government entities

“A Gift of Giving” is structured around eight classroom sessions that last between 45-60 minutes each, depending upon the project chosen and the age of the youth:

**Session 1: Community Concept:** The ideas of community and service are introduced.

**Session 2-4: Needs Assessment and Project Choice:** Once the youth understand community and community service, they will assess needs and problems of their community. The class will select a community to focus their service project.

**Session 5-6: Planning and Organizing a Project:** Students will complete the preparations necessary for the service project. Guest speakers can visit the class.

**Session 7: Project Day –** The actual project implementation

**Session 8: Reflection, Recognition, and Celebration:** The youth will be guided through a reflection activity focused on evaluation of the project.