

GLOBAL YOUTH ACTION PROJECT

Global youth work is informal education which starts from young people's everyday experiences, seeks to develop their understanding of the local and the global influences on their lives, and encourages positive action for change.

GLADE has been funded through the DEA (Development Education Association) from the Big Lottery Fund together with four other Development Education Centres across the country to deliver Global Youth Action projects (GYAPs). GLADE will work with four youth groups in Somerset each year over a three-year period (see attached project brief for more details), starting in January 2006. Jessica Witchell and Laura Tilling have been contracted to do this work.

As part of the consultation process leading to the DEA bid, Laura ran drop-in sessions with young people at a number of youth groups and received extremely positive feedback from the young people regarding their interest in global issues. In February 2006 Jess facilitated a workshop at the Somerset Youth Partnership "Ignite" conference which raised considerable interest in workers from both the statutory and the voluntary youth sectors in Somerset.

Jess and Laura are now identifying groups to work with during Year 1. This document outlines how we intend to work, and what commitment is required from the groups we work with.

Funding & Staffing

The Big Lottery Fund pays for Jess and Laura's time to help set up, deliver and evaluate the Global Youth Action Projects (GYAPs). We have allocated six contact sessions (half days) to each group over the course of their GYAP. This means that we will help run the first few sessions to get the young people motivated and we will then expect the project to continue with the guidance of the appointed youth worker(s). We will still be on hand to provide information, advice, activity packs and so on (using all GLADE's resources) but will not always be physically at each session. At key stages (that are identified in conjunction with the youth worker) during the project we will provide hands on activities and we will also be able to help co-ordinate other resources/facilitators that might be required (for example, bringing in a participatory art worker to explore an issue with the young people or sourcing a board game that explores the UN Rights of the Child). At no point during the project do we expect to be directly responsible for the young people participating.

Resources

GLADE has an extensive anti-racist, multicultural and global issues resources loan service. This takes the form of loaning out activity packs, videos, artefacts, photos, posters, games, books and magazines. They cover a wide range of topics ranging from food, ethical tourism, farming, environment, war & conflict resolution, drugs trade, clothing industry, sport, racism, refugees, HIV/AIDS and many more issues that affect young people locally and globally. Many of them are specifically designed for youth work and others require adapting. In order to benefit from this service and other GLADE services (training, workshop facilitation, advice and so on) we require our project partners to become a member of GLADE at a cost of £15. An initial visit to GLADE will familiarise youth workers with the resources and provide them with a resources list from which they will be able to order whenever they like.

Training

Two youth workers from each partner group will have the opportunity of receiving some Global Youth Work training. This will take the form of 'on the job' training as we plan and deliver the project together as well as a more formal workshop run specifically for youth workers. Some youth workers may like to gain an OCN accreditation for their work and sign up for the 'Introduction to Global Youth Work' course that is run centrally by the DEA at a concessionary fee of £250. This course involves a two-day residential training followed by course work based on the GYAP, and assessment (see 'training' sheet for more information).

Budget

There is £1500 per group to spend on the project. This is to cover any expenses that the young people and youth workers decide are necessary to make the project successful and fun. (For example, it might be that the group decides that they would like to make a short film exploring 'refugees' and use some of the money to hire a video camera and buy time at an editing suite.) This money is also to cover any additional transport costs, training & accreditation fees or other expenses that the project incurs. Ideally this money will be drawn from GLADE retrospectively via an invoice and receipts as the project progresses, or GLADE can pay directly for the services/items required.

Accreditation

We hope that the GYA projects will contribute to approximately 60% of participating young people achieving accreditation. We will fit in with whatever form of accreditation is currently provided by your group; for example, both Youth Achievement Awards and ASDAN FE Awards are widely used and recognised. We intend to become trained ourselves in this area, but, with your help, will generally try to incorporate our 'Global' goals/tasks/challenges into any existing format that you use. Where groups do not currently accredit we will endeavour to find a suitable award program and assessor training course.

Sessions

We aim to work in partnership with each youth group. Therefore we will fit into whatever time frame you feel best suits your group. It may be that a series of 8 evening sessions together with a one-day event seems appropriate, or you may prefer to focus on your project during a residential trip or summer holiday activity program. The GYA projects are youth-led and as such throughout the process it is important that the young people feel involved in the decision making processes too so a flexible time-scale is ideal so that the project can unfold naturally.

National Network

The Development Education Association (DEA) oversees this project and is co-ordinating a national network that is run by and for the young people who are taking part in the GYA projects. It is anticipated that some young people from each GYA project will want to attend an annual national get together to meet other young people and possibly contribute to policy changes at a national level. Some might also like to get involved in running the network or contributing to e-bulletins.

Somerset Events

Towards the end of the project we hope to invite all the participating groups to get together and share their experiences of the GYA program. This might also be an opportunity to invite a wider audience and celebrate some of the achievements.

Fun, Fun, Fun

Most of all these projects should be an enjoyable learning experience and a chance to take action! Here are some examples of the type of things young people can achieve when given a chance:

- Young people producing a magazine on fair (and unfair) trade in the clothing industry based on their own research and peer interviews about 'trainers'.
- Devising a charter for young people's rights.
- Young people exploring how gun culture impacts on their lives and those of their peers in cities across the world.
- Youth workers and young people making a video on the links between homelessness and refugees & asylum seekers.
- Small group work and creative arts to explore images of poverty in different countries.
- Members of a youth club campaigning on international debt relief based on activity and campaigning ideas in a global youth work magazine and video pack.
- Young people organising a one-day event for young people that celebrates diversity and global connections.