Commemoration of John F. Kennedy’s Campaign Appearance at Which He Proposed the Peace Corps

Michigan Union, Univ. of Michigan

Photos by Dr. Reifman
ABC TV Show “Extreme Makeover: Home Edition” (No Longer Airing) Visits West Texas in 2010

One of our class students from that semester volunteered and shared some of her photos. According to this Daily Toreador article, more than 90 students from Texas Tech participated.
Research on the Effects of Volunteer and Community Engagement

• Impact of Participation in AmeriCorps

• Survey by Dr. Reifman's Spring 2005 Research Methods Class on TTU Students' Campus Involvement


  o Excerpt of key finding: “...those who increased or better maintained (i.e., did not decrease as much) their community involvement across late adolescence and emerging adulthood showed decreases in diffusion and increases in achievement. On the other hand, those who increased, or better maintained, the level of religious involvement across this time period showed greater decreases in diffusion, increases in foreclosure, and decreases in moratorium.”


  o Studied college students who took volunteering trip to impoverished areas in Nicaragua during spring break and how the trip may have affected students’ future volunteer activity.

  o Researchers identified three themes in students’ post-visit essays: transformation, sympathy, and helplessness. Writing about which of the themes best predicted students’ long-term (3-month) volunteerism? *(ADDED after 11/19/2018 class)*
What characteristics seemed to separate those who stayed “on track” (in school or working) and those “in the street”?

“we explored a variety of possibilities... such as childhood trauma..., direct exposure to violence, the presence of adult role models, and whether a parent or primary caregiver was employed, struggled with a substance abuse problem, or was in jail”

“Each of these factors turned out to be important... None... was as powerful, however, as what we call an identity project.” (see Table 3.1, p. 67)

“An identity project is a source of meaning that provides a strong sense of self and is linked to concrete activities to which youth commit themselves.”

Examples include arts/music, poetry, making rap beats and putting them on the Internet, tending to flock of birds, and working with learning-disabled children

Identity projects appear to be most effective when pursued in conjunction with some kind of community organization, rather than just personally in isolation

IDENTITY PROJECTS (DeLuca, Clampet-Lundquist, & Edin, 2016)
Internet Resources

• Peace Corps (Official Site, Wikipedia)
• AmeriCorps/VISTA (Official Site)
• Teach for America
• serve.gov (a U.S. government site that helps match volunteers with opportunities)
• CIRCLE Organization (Tufts University)
• "Facts on Youth Volunteerism" (information mostly from 1990s)
• World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms (WWOOF) – Volunteer program mentioned by one of our students
• Special section of Journal of Adolescence (2010) on "Political and Civic Engagement Development in Adolescence"
• "Civic Engagement and the Transition to Adulthood" (2010, Special issue of journal, The Future of Children, on Transition to Adulthood)