



Learning to CARE Institute July 12-18, 2010



The Learning to CARE Institute 2010 is a program of *The Arab Initiative to Foster a Culture of Volunteering*. The Institute will provide training to nine teams from different countries of the Arab World, carefully selected to have the greatest impact on education in the region. These country teams will be provided with the necessary training and support to serve as trainers in their respective countries to help schools and other educational institutions develop programs of volunteering and community service. The training at the Institute will be based on the book *Learning to CARE: Education, Volunteering, and Community Service*, a comprehensive manual to help schools establish a caring school environment and develop any of six different options for incorporating volunteering and community service into the school:

- 1) School-Sponsored Service Projects
- 2) Extracurricular Clubs
- 3) Service Incentive Programs
- 4) Mandatory Service Programs
- 5) Service-Learning
- 6) Volunteering For Schools



Drawing on expertise and school experiences worldwide, the book and the training program help schools meet their academic and non-academic objectives through engaging youth in service activities. The program empowers students to volunteer and to plan and implement their own service projects under the supervision of responsible adults. It provides guidance to the different stakeholders (administrators, teachers, parents, and community partners) about how they can contribute to this empowerment. Above all, it encourages students to care, and to develop the qualities of a good volunteer (and a good citizen), one who is:

- Capable
- Available
- Reliable, and
- Engaged

Rationale of the Program:

The LTC Program is based on the premise that schools have the responsibility to promote, develop, and expand a spirit and culture of actively engaged citizenry by developing their students into citizens who are socially responsible and actively engaged, who appreciate the broader needs of their society, and who work for justice, equality, and human dignity. Schools need to develop in students both the recognition that they can make a difference in regard to these concerns, and that they have the social responsibility to do so by being agents of change and impacting their communities and environments positively. Schools can fulfill this responsibility through developing a variety of different service programs that either involve their students in active service to community associations or engage them in planning and

implementing their own community service projects. Many of these programs can also enhance the academic achievement of students and transform them into more active and engaged learners who appreciate the relevance of their academic studies to their life outside of school.

Faculty: The primary trainers for the Institute will be Mrs. Safaa El-Makkaoui (LTC Program Coordinator) and Dr. Patricia Nabti (author of the book *Learning to CARE*), who both have extensive experience as teachers, trainers and consultants in volunteering, and specialists in developing school service programs.

Place: The Learning to CARE Institute 2010 will take place at the Mediterranean Forest Development and Conservation Center of Lebanon (MFDCL) in the Aley District of Lebanon (<http://www.afdc.org.lb/mdfcl.php>). The Center, which is owned and managed by the Association for Forests, Development and Conservation (AFDC), is located 40 km from Beirut in a small, pristine forest near the village of Ramliyyeh at an altitude of 800 m. It is a perfect setting for our Institute, with fully equipped conference rooms, lodging facilities, and a dining room that serves delicious Lebanese traditional food prepared by women from the local community.

Program: The training program will include a week of intensive interactive training. Participants will:

- Gain knowledge about how to develop effective school service programs,
- Develop presentation and train-the-trainer skills
- Learn about available resources
- Become part of the LTC Program network

Scholarship: Thanks to the generous contribution of the Arab Thought Foundation (ATF), partial and full scholarships are available for a limited number of country teams from Arab countries having limited financial capacities, but who have demonstrated the commitment and ability to fulfill the objectives of the program. Funds are not available to fulfill the post-workshop commitments of country teams in their own countries.

Applicants

AVS is now accepting team applications from four-member teams from any Arab country. We will select only one team per country and will select the teams that we feel will have the greatest impact on education in the region. Thus the application must not only demonstrate that its members are Capable, Available, Reliable, and Engaged, but also that they are well-positioned to train schools in their country. Ministries of education, non-governmental organizations, and educational training institutes are invited to form a team of four individuals to apply to participate in this program.

What is the benefit to individual participants?

First and foremost, participants will get the chance to work on a project that will blaze new trails and serve your school, your community, your country, and the region as a whole.

In addition, personal benefits to all recruits include:

- The development of new skills and knowledge that you can apply to your school, your youth group, and your own children (or those of family and friends)

- A copy of the book *Learning to CARE* in either Arabic or English and other resources
- Enrichment of your CV
- The opportunity to meet, train, work with, and impact other educators and youth leaders from throughout Arab World

Profile of Potential Recruits

The members of the team should be:

- Familiar with Power Point, Excel, Internet searching, and email
- Able to commit to the time requirements of the program over a period of at least one year:
- Able and committed to evaluating and reporting on which efforts are effective and which are not
- Comfortable with sharing problems as well as successes with other program participants
- Committed to developing their newly acquired skills
- Passionate about civic engagement and community service
- Committed to the belief that, through serving their community, identifying its needs, and trying to find solutions that address those needs, youth can:
 - Become more empowered
 - Develop leadership, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, and
 - Develop a lifelong commitment to civic engagement.
- Ideally, at least some members of the team should have experience in teaching, supervising and/or empowering youth as teachers, Scout leaders, or in some other capacity.
- All members of the team should be fluent in Arabic and at least one member of the team should be fluent in English.

Important Notice:

- The team should be made of exactly four (4) members.
- Each team will represent one Arab country. While we will accept applications from more than one team per country, we will most likely only select one (1) team from any one Arab country.

Expectations of the Country Training Teams

Selected teams will be expected to:

- Provide training and consulting to school administrators and teachers of at least five schools in their country during the 2010-2011 school year to help them develop school service programs. Ideally, these schools should be as diverse as possible in terms of size, number of students, level (elementary, middle school, high school), and public/private.
- Assist in further development and improvement of the LTC Program
- Participate in all the monthly online seminars following the Institute during the 2010-2011 school year to share experiences and be given additional training (alternatives will be made available when teams must occasionally be absent from these sessions)
- Present to AVS brief monthly reports (in Arabic or English) on the development of the school service programs

- Present to AVS a final report (in Arabic or English) in which the team:
 - Evaluates the school service programs developed through the team's efforts during the year
 - Provides recommendations for the program in their country during the next year, and
 - Evaluates the LTC Training Program.

Trainees need to bring:

- Their own laptops (at least one per team)
- Their latest national curriculum guidelines for elementary through high school
- An Arabic/English – English/Arabic dictionary (at least one per team)
- Money to cover any additional personal expenses
- Casual, comfortable clothes for the retreat for both cool warm weather, one set of nicer clothes for an evening “out”, and one set of work clothes that can get paint, dirt, etc. on them while doing a hands-on service project.
- All toiletries, medications, and other personal needs

Registration:

If you are interested in attending our Summer Learning to CARE Institute in Ramliyyeh, Lebanon from July 12th to July 18th, 2010, please fill in the team application form available at this link: www.avs.org.lb/ltc_program.html as soon as possible, but no later than June 15.

Participation Fee:

The fee for each country team is only US\$2000 which includes:

- All training and consultation at the retreat and during the 2010-2011 school year
- Meals and accommodations at the Center
- Transportation from/to the airport in Beirut and from Beirut to the retreat center and return, as well as any transportation within Lebanon that is part of the program.
- One copy of the book Learning to CARE for each team member
- Other training materials

Note: The workshop registration fee does **NOT** include travel to/from Lebanon.

For scholarship information, please refer to the Scholarship section above.

Payment:

Full participation fees are due within two weeks of being notified that your application has been accepted, to be paid by bank transfer or online payment gateway. The information to do so will be provided with your acceptance.

For further information please contact:

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