The Circle

2nd Annual Campus-Wide Community Service Project

On Saturday, September 27th, Circle K held its 2nd Annual Campus-Wide Community Service Project. Current members gathered at 8AM; with new participants gathering around 9AM. We left New Towers hall at 930AM for Fairmount Park to perform community service.

The area in which we were given to clean was a complete disaster. Large amounts of wood scraps, mattresses, household trash, even bathroom sinks could be found in more than one area. In fact, two multi-ton garbage trucks were filled to capacity.

As a preventative measure, large amounts of branches and overgrowths that dumpers often hid behind were cut down to make their offenses more easily to detect from the road side. Soon, according to the Fairmount Park Commission employees, large logs will be placed to prevent dumper from being able to drive off road to dump.

The event was sponsored in part by the Residential Living Office (RLO) and the Commissions for Activities and Programs (CAP). Food was provided at a substantial discount by Powelton Pizza.

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InterPACK

InterPACK is coming up! InterPACK is a weekend leadership program at Camp Hidden Valley hosted by the Circle K Pennsylvania District. Those who have gone report nothing but positives experiences and encourage others to go.

At InterPACK, members will meet other members of Circle K throughout the Pennsylvania district. There will be several ice breakers, trust exercises, and other leadership building tools that will leave its participants with a better grasp on organizational leadership. It is recommended for all officers, chairs, and those who are interested in becoming an officer or a chair in the future. However, all are welcomed to participate.

There is a small registration fee for this weekend trip which includes meals. Circle K will subsidize the cost. Please contact Alicia (anb27@drexel.edu) to sign-up or for more information. The deadline is October 9th, 2003.

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Weekly Projects

- Reading Stars runs weekly on Wednesday’s. Meet at 4:30pm in front of Ross Commons, be back on campus before 6:30pm
- Soup Kitchen runs weekly on Thursday’s. Meet at 5:00pm by the blue tables of Creese, be back on campus by 7:00pm.
Weekly Projects

Aside from our big projects such as our annual Campus-Wide, the AIDS walk, ASB, and other projects, Circle K hosts smaller weekly events.

For those interested in tutoring the youth, Reading Stars might be the program for you. Reading Stars is a program sponsored by Philadelphia Cares. It is a one on one tutoring program in which each tutor helps the student pass through several reading level workbooks. Each lesson is broken down into simple steps with instructions to make teaching not only effective, but fun, for both the tutor and the student.

The group meets on Thursday’s at 4:30PM in front of the Ross Commons, and returns to campus before 6:30PM. If you are interested in the program contact Al (afs25@drexel.edu) or Jason (jg82@drexel.edu)

If you want to make a positive change in those who are truly needy, the Soup Kitchen is a great program. Help prepare easy meals and beverages to those who will truly appreciate your concern and dedication.

The group meets on Fridays at 5:00PM by the blue benches near the Creese Center; you will return to campus around 7:00PM. If interested, contact Louis (lak49@drexel.edu)

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For example: A project idea we tried last year, was an Animal Shelter volunteer program. It was a monthly event, and it has good membership support. We are currently trying to schedule the project for this year. Most likely, it will occur on a Sunday morning or mid-afternoon.
Summer Wrap-Up

Despite not having weekly meetings, Circle K had plenty going on this past summer. We held several events throughout the summer. Summaries follow:

On Saturday, June 28th, the first summer project was conducted. It was held on West River Drive. We had eight members show up at 8:30am.

The purpose of the event was to plant native trees and shrubbery along the banks of the river in order to prevent the Canadian Geese from wading onto the soil. The Canadian geese were a hazard to the local region because their feces is high in nitrogen, which is a contaminate that flows into the river, which, after purified, is a main source of drinking water of the Philadelphia region.

Not all of events are all work. On July 26th, Circle K hosted a summer barbecue on the beach volleyball courts. It was rather interesting seeing just how poorly our members are at lighting a functional fire. In the end though, the fire was started, and the food was cooked. To add to our poor fire starting skills, it became rather evident that volleyball was a not a skill the group excelled at. All in all though, the weather was great, and a good time was had by all.

On Sunday, July 20th, a group of eight met at 9:30am and drove to a Fairmount Park site. The tasks included planting bamboo poles and tying them to tilted trees and shrubbery to give them additional support and hopefully correct their growth. In addition, they also had to remove plenty of an exotic vine known as “Mile-a-Minute” weeds. As their name suggests, they grow rather quickly and threaten native vegetation.

On August 9th, a small group consisting of Jon, Al, and Keith met at 9:30am at New Towers and attempted to reach the Tacony Creek site. There was some trouble encountered, but after a few wrong turns, and attempts to go the wrong way on one-ways, the group found their way. The Philadelphia Water Department explained exactly what defined a watersheds and furthermore explained the importance of Tacony Creek to the area. We then cleared trash that was littered along the banks, and then was explained more about the ecological system. Our last task included pulling weeds around trees and shrubs, and removal of broken support poles and fences around trees.

Lastly, On August 16th, five members met at 9:30am to go to a Fairmount Park site along West River Drive. A large amount of trash was cleaned from a natural area that was sandwiched between two roads. The group was split in half, one cleaned the top, the other the bottom, meeting in the middle of the hill. Several bags of trash, and several baskets of recyclables were removed from the area.

Overall, the summer projects were a great success. We performed several hours of community service, and really made a noticeable difference in the areas we cleaned. We hope to continue and expand our summer projects next year.
AIDS Walk

October 19th, 2003 marks the AIDS Walk Philadelphia. Over 30,000 people in the Philadelphia Region are living with HIV/AIDS. The event is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline, Merck, US Airways, and NBC 10.

The funds raised through this event will be used in public awareness campaigns and support programs that provide community education, outreach, and direct care services (such as counseling, testing, and medical care) to people living with HIV/AIDS.

The event brings in tens of thousands of participants and since its founding in 1987, they have raised over $11 million dollars.

Last year, Circle K raised $114.75 for the event. One of our goals is to pass that amount this year.

The walk will be approximately 8.5 miles, and water will be provided along the way. If need be, there will be vehicles making pick ups for anyone who cannot complete the walk. Refreshments during the walk will be sold through vendors. There will however be a free lunch afterwards.

Members interested in this program should grab a flyer and try to raise small donations from friends and family for this great cause.

If you would like to be a part of this event, please contact Keith, kac58@drexel.edu

Officer and Chair Contact Information

Jason Gomes, President
jg82@drexel.edu

Keith Carr, VP of Service
kac58@drexel.edu

Alicia Buchanan, VP of Membership Development
anb27@drexel.edu

Truc Tran, Treasurer
tt49@drexel.edu

Albert Shenko, Secretary
afs25@drexel.edu

Louis Kratz, Publicity Chair
lak49@drexel.edu

Cyndi Chudzik, Social Chair
cmc44@drexel.edu

Jon Nguyen, Website Chair
qpn22@drexel.edu

Kelly Hendrickson, Scrapbook Chair
keh29@drexel.edu

Circle K
Creese Student Center
3141 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA

Phone: 215-895-0461
Email: drexelcirclek@hotmail.com

www.ducirclek.org