

Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter

Service Learning and KIB

KIB recently wrapped up our 14th semester of participation in North Lake College's Service Learning Program. This partnership dates back to the fall of 2008, and since then hundreds of students have worked with KIB in a variety of events while earning credit for their courses.

During the 2014-15 school year, North Lake students participated in: the Trash Bash and Trash-Off, as well as joining with other groups for cleanups, like the Nimitz FFA at Trinity View and the Irving Lake Association at the annual spring Lake Vilbig cleanup; planting trees at the city of Irving's Tree Farm; several paint projects at Irving parks; the Grand Opening of the new South Irving Library; and community events like the Irving Family YMCA Fall Festival, where they worked the KIB table and prize wheel and made it a green event by collecting recyclables and keeping the grounds litter-free. KIB tried to offer as many different and interesting opportunities as possible with a variety of partners to engage the students in meaningful volunteer community service.



Service Learning students entertained guests by dressing as mascots and literary characters at the South Irving Library Grand Opening on March 21.

Service Learning is a partnership that North Lake College has with numerous non-profit organizations. Each semester, students whose course work includes a Service Learning component choose a participating agency to volunteer with. KIB staff or board members attend a fair to talk about opportunities with the students before they make their decisions. The students typically are required to complete 15 to 20 hours of service, and also write a paper on the impact their experiences had on them and the community.

The program coordinator is Katherine Villarreal, who is also a mathematics professor at North Lake. She encourages students to participate, citing the many benefits, including exploring different career opportunities, developing valuable skills like leadership and communication, and getting involved in the community by giving back and making a difference in people's lives.

KIB looks forward to keeping this partnership thriving for many years to come.

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Did You Know?

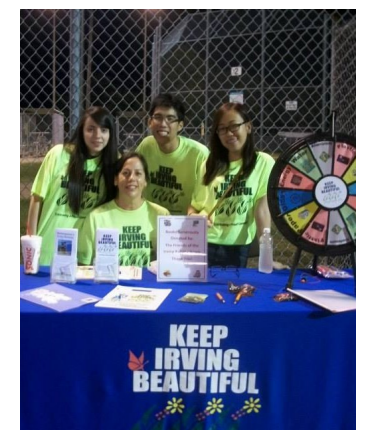
More from Earth 911 about recycling in ways you might not have considered:

- More than 80% of consumers say they rarely if ever recycle products from the bathroom, even those who recycle on a regular basis elsewhere
- A company called Bureo makes skateboards from recycled fishing nets.
- Gili Bags makes several varieties of sports bags and pouches from recycled vinyl billboard material.

Think before you throw an item into the trash: Can this be reused or recycled?



Service Learning students in action at the UPS tree planting at the Mountain Creek Preserve Tree Farm (above), and at the Irving Family YMCA Fall Festival (below).



Rainy Spring Good News for Texas

All the spring rains we have experienced might have canceled a few outdoor KIB projects, but it certainly was good for the drought situation in our state. As a follow up to our April newsletter, which was all about water, Irving's main water source, Lake Chapman, is now at capacity, and the city has lifted Stage 1 watering restrictions. However, water conservation is still a priority, with twice-a-week irrigation allowed on a Sunday-Wednesday schedule for odd addresses and Tuesday-Saturday

for even addresses, only between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. The website www.watermyyard.org is a good way to find out how much watering is needed to supplement precipitation. It's often less than you might think. Remember that while we are enjoying the benefits of the wet weather, our fellow Texans in some of the western areas of the state are still in drought conditions.