



Big Thought SLANT

Service Learning Adventures in North Texas

Sponsored by

Bank of America

About SLANT

SLANT: Service Learning Adventures in North Texas, is a service-learning program designed to inspire youth to take up the challenge of improving their neighborhoods and communities in unique and creative ways. From creating an anti-bullying campaign and collecting food for pets in animal shelters to planting a community garden and producing a school-wide health fair, participants tackle a variety of challenges in their schools and communities.

The program was created in 2009 by Big Thought as the education initiative of the North Texas Super Bowl XLV Host Committee. In the first year of the program, more than 44,000 North Texas youth completed more than 445,000 hours of service. Because of the overwhelming success of SLANT 45, Big Thought decided to continue the program on a local level as a constant reminder that when kids are given a compass and the power to spark change, they can shatter any expectation and master any challenge.

The 2011-2012 SLANT program launched on September 17, 2011 and runs through May 30, 2012. Daryl Johnston continues to serve as the chair of the SLANT committee. For more information visit myslant.org.

About Service-Learning

Service-learning is a proven educational technique through which students apply their academic skills and knowledge to address real life needs in their own communities. Service-learning includes researching community needs, learning about the importance of civic participation, giving back to the community, reflecting and demonstrating knowledge gained through participation. By solving real problems and addressing real needs, students can authentically learn to apply classroom knowledge in a real world context, explore character education, develop life skills or pursue a host of other educational outcomes. At the same time, students are contributing valuable services to schools and communities.

Service-learning facilitates a student's growth in academics, social maturity, critical thinking, communication, collaboration and leadership skills. Students who are involved in meaningful service-learning often perform better on tests, demonstrate a sense of self-esteem and purpose, connect with the community and want to be more civically engaged. They also are less inclined to be involved in negative behavior, more likely to graduate from high school and college, and have a greater sense of altruism to their communities.

About Big Thought

Founded in 1987, Dallas-based Big Thought is one of the nation's leading nonprofits devoted to closing the opportunity gap in education through creative learning. Driven by its mission — to make imagination a part of everyday learning — Big Thought develops groundbreaking programs to address problem-solving, life skills, career connections and workforce readiness, providing children with pathways to success. Through innovative partnerships, Big Thought now serves more than 300,000 Dallas children, families and teachers and delivers more than one million hours of programming and individual creative instruction each year.

In 2007, Big Thought launched Thriving Minds, a collaborative education initiative that uses fine arts and other creative disciplines to prepare students to succeed academically and in life. As managing partner, Big Thought coordinates a network of more than 100 community organizations that provide free creative learning programs and other academic support services to students in grades K-8 in classrooms, after-school programs and neighborhood facilities across the city. A model for cities across America, Big Thought has achieved national recognition, including the Americans for the Arts "2009 Arts in Education Award," the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities "Coming Up Taller Award" in 2004, and as a participant in the White House's "Champions of Change" summit on arts education in 2011. Learn more at bigthought.org.

SLANT, c/o Big Thought, 2501 Oak Lawn Avenue, Suite 550, LB-42, Dallas, TX 75219

myslant.org