

Service at Salado

By Tina Salata



Service at Salado

- Project Overview
- Organizational Structure
- Semester Overview
- Past Projects
- Future Projects
- Video if Time

Program Objectives

Overarching Goal: Create after-school clubs that engage children in a local environmental project while performing a valuable community service.

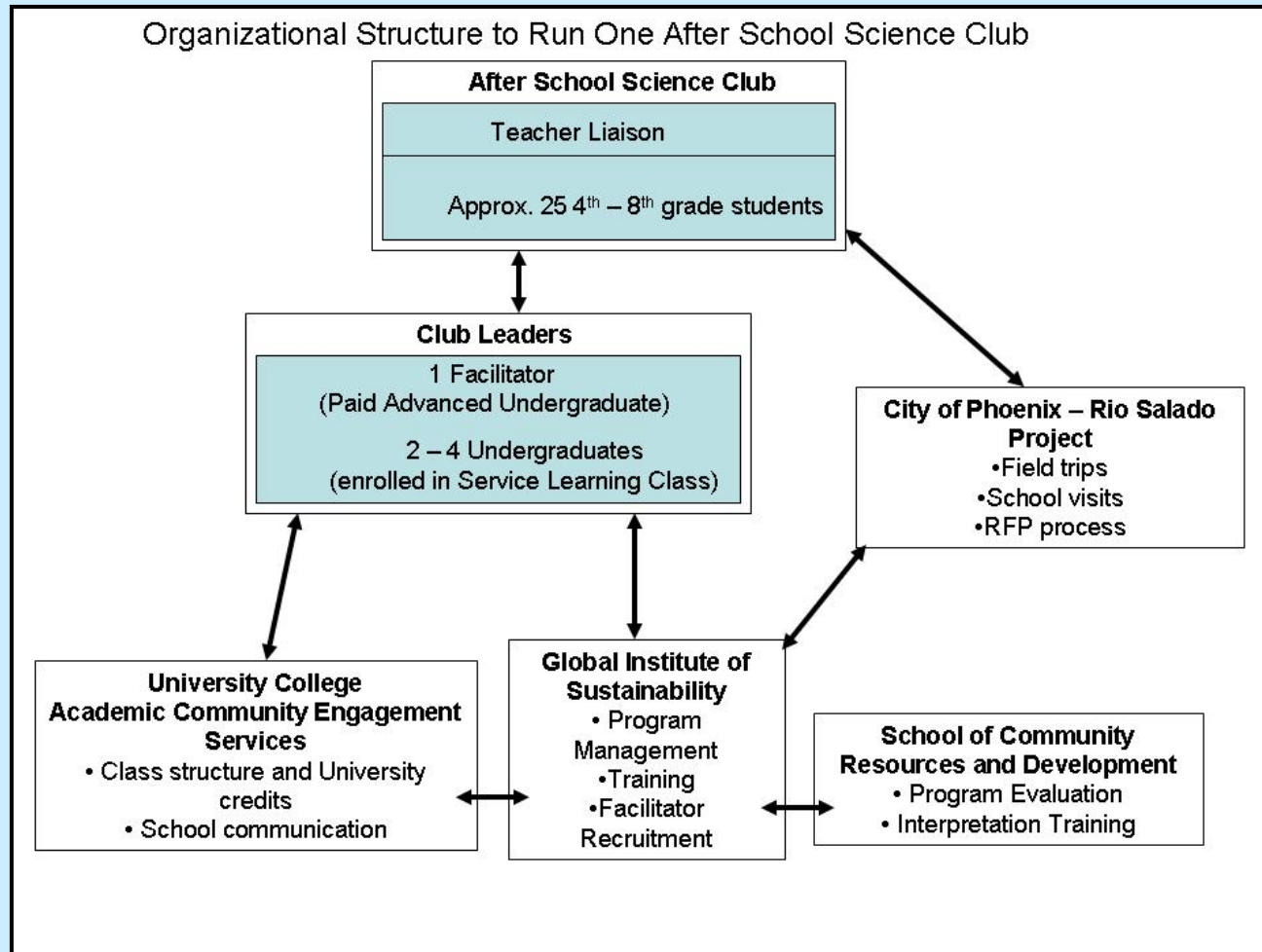
- **Goal:** Learn content and build skills in the following areas: scientific protocols, restoration ecology, mapping skills, use of technology (GPS units, digital camera, handheld computers), communication skills (interpretation, teaching).
- **Goal:** Learning about service: leadership skills, role of being a community member, community awareness and environmental stewardship.
- **Goal:** Learning about ASU and career opportunities: technology, science, and park-service careers.
- **Goal:** Identify a community need and choose and implement an environmental service-learning project to address this need.

Key Components

- Engage local schoolchildren in restoring and actively learning about a Sonoran Desert riparian area in the heart of the city.
- Investigations into the natural world should increase the likelihood of their excelling in the classroom and becoming environmentally literate citizens.



Structure



In Field Experience

HISTORY

HABITAT RESTORATION

ACTIVITIES & FACILITIES

WATER SYSTEM

PARTNERSHIPS

NEWS



Bringing the Salt River Back to Life.

Project Overview

- Part 1: Active learning about the Rio Salado
- Part 2: Agreeing on a service project that is submitted and approved by the City of Phoenix
- Part 3: Service project development

Final Celebration

Past Projects

- Stepping Stones
- Suggestion Box
- Rock Sculptures
- Water Conservation Video
- Painted Trash Cans
- Animal and Plant Information Display Boards
- Informational Signs for Park Kiosks
- Bat Boxes
- Bird Houses
- Interactive Exhibits
- Calendar
- Videos
- Mail Box for Bird ID



Evaluation

- Study in 2004:
Illustrated students had: greater scientific aptitude, learned how to ask relevant questions, identified patterns, and made connections to their community.
- Pre- & Post- Program Surveys from 2005-2007:
indicate that students developed an enhanced sense of attachment to Rio Salado over time.

“I think the projects really help them into understanding leadership better and to mold their behavior so they worked helping one another. They were really excited that they could do something together and give something to the community.”

“What I felt with really neat was that the kids bonded with us and at the end made us feel so important in their lives. They even wanted us to sign cards that they had made up just so they could remember us. I thought that was so special.”



Lowell Elementary - Spring 2006

Facilitator: Carena van Riper
Interns: Jordan Costello, Marsha Johnson, Crissy Knight, Hanna Milosevic, and Rebecca Sommer
Teacher Liaison: Ms Lange-Bush
 28 students



Project Summary:

Their final project is a set of [birdhouse mailboxes](#) that will be used by a volunteer group from the Audubon Society that conducts bird census surveys at the Rio Salado renovation site. To complete this project, the students researched native bird species, drafted a design, constructed, and then painted the two mailboxes. The students also produced a bird watching book.

Highlights of the year:

The students at Lowell Elementary School elected to focus their club on the study of birds. Throughout the semester, they have learned about concepts such as animal adaptations, the food web, ecological footprints, and bird nesting.

Club Example



<http://caplter.asu.edu/explorers/riosalado/links.htm>

Sunland Video Ch1 & 2

- Example of working with a project