



Instructions: Participating in the Send My Friend to School Activity

Overview

During Action Week, classrooms across the globe will take part in an innovative lesson and petitioning campaign to make sure that Universal Primary Education is a top priority for key policy makers. In the United States, the petition campaign will target President Bush's attendance at the G-8 Summit in Scotland in July and United States leaders at the United Nations MDG+5 Summit in New York in September.

Instead of a typical paper petition, students will create either life-size (or smaller scale) cut-out "friend" petitions. The cut-outs will represent the more than 100 million children not enrolled in primary school and will have messages attached to government leaders urging U.S. leadership in the global effort to achieve Universal Primary Education. Directly following the creation of the cut-out friend petitions during Action Week, they should be sent to NetAid. NetAid will in turn send the friends to the G-8 Summit in Scotland and to New York City for the MDG +5 Summit in September. At the G-8 Summit and the MDG +5 Summit, leaders of countries from across the world will discuss how education can play a role in eliminating global poverty.

Students will be able to follow the journey of their cut-out friends across the globe in their pursuit of Universal Primary Education. NetAid will provide constant updates on its website informing "Send My Friend to School" participants on the location of the "friends" and their progress in helping all children access to their right to basic education.

Getting Started

1. Register your participation in Action Week at www.netaid.org.
2. Download the Action Week 2005 Participation Resources.
3. If possible, introduce the "Send My Friend to School" activity by adapting the lesson plans from the Participation Resources.

Making the Friend

Note: *The activity should be adapted to fit your school environment. Ideally, each student will create a cut-out of a "friend" and write a letter on the back to President Bush for the G-8 Summit. Students can create their own 8 ½" x 11" cut-out or they can fill in a downloadable 8 ½" x 11" version from the NetAid website at www.netaid.org. Another option would be for the class to create one life-size friend cut-out and have all members of the class sign it as a petition.*



NetAid

1. Using paper, card, cloth, newspaper, old packaging or whatever materials you can find, draw the shape of a human figure and cut it out. For maximum impact try not to make the cut-out too small.
2. Who you want your cut-out to represent is entirely up to you-- it could be a person you know who needs an education or a made-up person representing a child in any country that does not have access to primary education. We are encouraging as many cut-outs as possible to be girls or women, in view of the urgent need to reach the goal for gender parity in education.
3. Just how elaborately you decorate the front of your cut-out depends completely upon your own imagination. You could use the cut-outs to showcase local costumes & traditions, activities that you enjoy, etc.
4. It will be up to each individual or group making a cut-out to decide the issues to highlight. If you are making a cut-out as a group or class, you may want to use this as an opportunity to have a debate or discussion about the message on the front.

Think carefully about the message you want to send politicians. You can write your message on the front of your friend. Your message might start with the words, "Send my friend to school so that...". Then you can add the reason why you think it is important for your "friend" to be able to go to school. Think back to the brainstorm on the challenges to education, the reasons it's important, and what can be done to help children.

- o You can include core messages like: Educate [Name of 'friend'] to End Poverty" or a variation on the core message such as: "Educate [Name] to Fight AIDS", "Educate [Name] to Stop Child Labor", "Educate [Name] to Empower Women."
5. You may wish to also include your own message to President Bush or your member of Congress. In particular, you may want to urge the United States to play more of a leadership role in the fight against poverty and in ensuring that all of the world's children have access to primary education. You can call for this through an increase in United States assistance for primary education programs in developing countries.
 6. On the back of the cut-out please write the "Friend of Education" pledge, which should include the following words:



The Global Friend of Education Pledge

We are [I am] sending my friend to you so that you can send my friend to school. Please pledge your commitment to take action in 2005 so that all of our friends get a quality education.

The Global Campaign for Education will deliver your friends to your political leaders.

7. Please write the name(s) and address of those who made the Friend in a small, but clearly legible space somewhere on the back. If you are submitting a petition from the class or an organization, you can include the email address for the school, class or group, so that you can receive regular updates.

Sending the Friend

1. Carry out the Send My Friend to School activity before or during action week, April 24-30 2005. Keep in mind the action is time-sensitive.
2. Fill out your validation form (included in this packet). Include it with the mailing. Only friends received with a validation form will be counted toward the national total. Validation forms also ensure that you get updates from NetAid on the progress of the friends.
3. Once the friend(s) and validation form are complete, **send them on or before May 15, 2005** to:

NetAid: Action Week 2005
267 Fifth Avenue, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10016

4. If possible, include any photographs or personal messages about the activity with your friend(s). NetAid will feature Action Week 2005 participants on our website at www.netaid.org.

Following the Friend

Be sure to stay up-to-date by visiting www.netaid.org and tracking the progress of the friends. GCE and NetAid will follow the friends on their journeys to the G-8 Summit in Scotland and the MDG +5 Summit in New York City and provide a certificate of participation and e-mail updates to all participants completing the validation form.



Validation Form: Action Week 2005 Participation

Please send this form with your "friends" to NetAid postmarked by May 15, 2005.

NetAid: Action Week 2005

267 Fifth Avenue, 11th Floor

New York, NY 10015

Name: _____

School: _____

E-mail: _____

**School
Address:** _____

**Participating
Grade
Levels:** _____

Can we select your friend for publication or to include in a report? Yes No

TOTAL NUMBER OF FRIENDS ENCLOSED:

Did you use the lesson plan with the Send My Friend to School activity?

Yes No

If yes, please comment on the usefulness of the lesson plan:

Would you like to receive periodic e-mail updates from the NetAid Educator Network?

Yes No



Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Where am I sending my Friend?**
 - You are sending your friends to NetAid, a partner organization in the Global Campaign for Education. NetAid will count the number of friends it receives, and will forward these to the Global Campaign for Education. The Global Campaign for Education will report to the President and to the G-8 leaders on the number of friends/letters received, and will deliver letters from around the world at the G-8 Summit in July.
2. **Will my letter be public?**
 - If you, your classroom or your organization says yes on the Validation Form, we may select your letter to be posted on a website, at a public event, or in a report.
3. **Will I get my friend back after the G-8 Summit and MDG +5 Summit?**
 - No. Your friend is a letter/petition to the President. All letters, once delivered, will not be returned to NetAid or to you.
4. **Who will pay for postage?**
 - You are responsible for mailing the friends to NetAid. Once they arrive at NetAid in New York, NetAid will cover the transportation and mailing fees.
5. **Where should my friend be from?**
 - Your friend can be from any country you would like. Keep in mind that the friend should represent someone who does not have access to primary education.
6. **Why is my downloadable friend wearing a white band?**
 - In 2005, the white band symbolizes solidarity in the fight against global poverty. To find out more about the white band, visit www.netaid.org.
7. **How will I know how many friends the United States sent to the G-8 and MDG +5 Summits?**
 - All participants completing a validation form will receive updates from NetAid detailing the collective efforts of students and educators from across the United States as well as from across the globe.