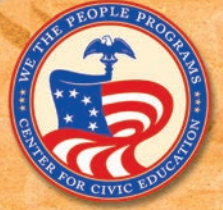


STUDENTS TAKE ACTION

PROJECT Citizen



Changing Park Rules

When students in Pleasant Grove, Utah, rode their bicycles or skateboards to a park, they ran into a problem. Signs posted in the park said that no biking, skateboarding, or roller skating was allowed. The teens knew that if they wanted to change these rules, they would have to work with the city government.

Community Connection To find out the extent of the problem, the Project Citizen students in teacher Bill Spence's class talked to classmates and adults in the community. During these surveys, the students discovered that many people were confused about which activities were and were not allowed in the park. Some park signs further complicated the problem by giving conflicting information. For example, one park sign said both "No bikes" and "Park bikes in bike racks."

Taking Action The students decided to research local laws. They learned that one city law specifically allowed bicycles in parks and skateboards and roller skates in particular areas. Prepared with this information and their survey results, the students invited officials from the city's Leisure Services Division and the Parks and Recreation Department to a presentation at their school. The students presented their research and suggested a plan of action, which included replacing the confusing signs and making sure the park rules followed the city law. The officials agreed with the students' recommendation and posted new park signs. "The city's officials were very impressed with the students' research and presentation," said teacher Bill Spence.



Signs make it easier to know park rules.

SERVICE LEARNING

go.hrw.com
Project Citizen

KEYWORD: SZ7 CH9

1. Why was it useful for the students to interview others about their reactions to the park signs?
2. How did researching local laws help the students achieve their goal?