The Team Kids Challenge is a month-long program that brings community role models - police officers, firefighters, and Team Kids coaches - into public elementary schools to inspire kids to engage in service. Each week, kids learn about critical issues in their community, and conduct a related donation or service Challenge. The Team Kids Leadership Team is comprised of upper grade students who volunteer to meet weekly at lunch to plan a school-wide carnival for week four. The Challenge program begins with a school-wide assembly and ends with a kid-created carnival, followed by a celebration of service debrief.

More than 200,000 elementary students have participated in the Team Kids Challenge in California, Virginia, Arizona and New York. Since its inception in 2001, Team Kids students have raised over $700,000 in resources and direct proceeds.

Empowering Kids
Building Trust
Strengthening Communities

Challenge is available

Get on the bus with Team Kids!
Julie Hudash, Founder/CEO
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The Team Kids Challenge is rooted in the Search Institute’s 40 Developmental Assets framework, which has shown that the more assets children acquire, the less likely they are to engage in high risk behaviors, and the better their chances of positive outcomes like school success and positive life choices. Program evaluation results from six schools in Torrance, Compton, and New York demonstrate that the Team Kids Challenge is an effective program, building developmental assets and more positive perceptions of law enforcement. Because the program is implemented during children’s elementary school years (before they hit middle and high school), the Team Kids Challenge represents a solid return on investment, potentially preventing the high cost to society of alcohol and other drug addiction, incarceration, and high levels of distrust between community members and their public safety personnel.

**Team Kids Challenge builds self-efficacy and bonding to school**

**Team Kids Challenge builds trust between children and law enforcement**

Strengthen protective factors in kids, lower high risk behaviors, and build trusting relationships with law enforcement.
Law Enforcement Time Commitment:
(Each program strengthens Relationships with up to 1000 students)

- 2 Hour Program Training delivered virtually by Team Kids Staff
- 6 Hours of mentoring for each 5-week *in-school* program delivery
- 3 Hours of mentoring for each 5-week *virtual* program delivery

In-School - Best with 3-5 Officers  Virtual Program - Best with 1-2 Officers
Team Kids Staff handles 100% of program admin, is present for every meeting, and provides weekly talking points

What did you learn from being part of the Team Kids Challenge Program?

I learned that doing good things don’t need rewards you can hold, it means you get a reward that stays in your heart forever.