

Men Make A Difference Day

10.10.11



“The positive influence of men being in the classroom cannot be disregarded.”
(Wells-Wilbon and Holland, 2001)

Why Men Make A Difference Day



“Children with involved fathers, on average, do better in school, have a greater motivation to succeed, have higher self-esteem and more confidence in unfamiliar settings, and are less like to be delinquent or abuse substances like drugs and alcohol” (Battaglia, 2006, p.2).

In 1992, The National Center for Fathering's Gallup Poll found 96.8% of those responding agreed that fathers should be more involved in their children's education. An additional finding revealed the importance of fathers to a child's academic success. In that same 1992 National Center for Fathering's Gallup Poll, 54.1% of the respondents agreed "fathers today spend less time with their children than their fathers did with them." One seemingly effective way to assist fathers in their efforts to increase their engagement has been to encourage their participation with their child's school.

Inviting fathers, step dads, uncles, brothers, nephews, male cousins and other significant male role models to observe their children or family member classrooms has been an effective tool for many public school districts throughout the country, most notably a public school district located in Maryland. The system boast 10,000 fathers participated in its first annual Men Make A Difference Day. The event was held on October 13, 2008 which was a Federal holiday, but one in which local public schools were open.

The benefits for children when fathers and other significant males are engaged in their academic lives are indefinable. Many fathers are aware their presence makes an enormous difference in their children performance in school. However, most will suggest they have not had the opportunity to become engaged in their child's school. For example, 38% of working dads stated they would take a pay cut to spend more time with their kids (2007 survey by CareerBuilder.com).

Some additional facts regarding fathers and male role models:

1. Forty-eight percent of working fathers have missed a significant event in their child's life due to work at least once in the last year and nearly one in five (18 percent) have missed four or more.
2. More than one in four (27 percent) working dads say they spend more than 50 hours a week on work and nearly one in 10 (8 percent) spend more than 60 hours.
One in four (25 percent) working dads spend less than one hour with their kids each day.
3. Forty-two percent spend less than two hours each day.
4. Thirty-six percent of working dads say their company does not offer flexible work arrangements such as flexible schedules, telecommuting, job sharing and more (2007 survey by CareerBuilder.com).

**MEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
CALLING MEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN
OCTOBER 10, 2011**

**Are You Prepared To Make A Difference
Men Make A Difference Day**

Forest Of The Rain Productions is an Internet education communication company. Our mission is to spotlight the challenges confronting education and the talented people and organizations providing solutions. We give a voice to parents, educators, researchers and advocates in the vast educational landscape. Many of these amazing advocates for education are seldom heard but they have innovative ideas and solutions to complex problems facing education today.

On October 10, 2011 we are urging all fathers and significant male role models across the country to participate in **Men Make A Difference Day (MMDD)**. Research indicates when fathers and significant male role models are involved students: **(a)** Make As and Bs; **(b)** Have greater motivation to succeed; **(c)** Have higher self-esteem; **(d)** Have less health and emotional problems; **(e)** More confidence; **(f)** Are less likely to use drugs; **(g)** Girls are less likely to engage in pre-marital sex; and **(h)** Are less likely to become teenage parents

Men Make A Difference Day is a great day for fathers to rediscover their place in the lives of their children. The concept of Men Make A Difference Day began four years ago in Prince George's County, Maryland when Dr. Michael A. Robinson called on fathers to come out and make a difference. This remarkable one day event resulted in over **10,000 dads and significant male role models engaging their children's school**. Many of the dads, escorted their children to school, while others observed classrooms, met teachers, committed to volunteering more at the school and yes there was an increase in the number of men who joined school PTAs. The outcomes of the first Men Make A Difference Day continued throughout that school year and others that followed. Data indicated more fathers participated in teacher parent conferences, assisted with homework and volunteered in the past three years than ever before. There was even an increase in the number of men who attended school sponsored parent workshops.

On October 10, 2011 fathers, uncles, brothers, sons, nephews and significant male role models in the lives of children are encouraged to participate in Men Make A Difference Day, by visiting their child's or family member's classroom and spending quality time with the student. Dads and significant male role models in the lives of children all over America are asked to observe the student's daily routine, participate as allowed in the interactive classroom instruction, and get involved in the excitement of teaching and learning.

Forest Of The Rain Productions, suggest six easy ways men can become involved in a child's education:

1. Observe your child's classroom at least twice a year
2. Participate in at least one Parent-Teacher Conference and/or Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meeting
3. Attend at least one extra curricular (non-sporting) event this school year
4. Join and participate in your child's school or any school's formal parent organization (PTA/PTSA/PTO)
5. Assist a student with their homework assignments
6. Volunteer at least seven hours this year at your student's school

For more information on how you can support Men Make A Difference Day (MMDD) contact Forest Of The Rain Productions at 240.593.3813 or via email at forestoftherain@gmail.com or visit our website at www.menmakeadifferenceday.com.

The 2011
Men Make A Difference Day
10.10.11



MMDD
Organizing Guide

“Being involved in all aspects of parenting is an important part of being an involved father. Some fathers are more comfortable with teaching, playing with, or even disciplining their child because they see these activities as what a father is supposed to do” said Kate Fogarty and Garret D. Evans of the University of Florida. “However, fathers who are involved in as many areas of their child's development are happier as a parent and have healthier, more successful children.”



Forest Of The Rain Productions

Talking Points

Men Make A Difference Day

- **What is Men Make A Difference Day?**
 - An initiative to increase the involvement of fathers and significant male role models in the academic lives of children.
- **When is Men Make A Difference Day?**
 - October 10, 2011 (**10.10.11**)
- **Why Columbus Day?**
 - Research has indicated that fathers and significant male roles stated their level of engagement is impacted by their employment. To address that issue, we have chosen Columbus Day because it is typically a Federal and State holiday and thus many business and organizations are closed, however, many school districts are open for learning. This provides an opportunity for fathers and significant male roles to visit schools without having to miss a day of work.
 - School districts that are closed on **Columbus Day** are suggested to select an alternative date that best aligns with their school district's approved calendar.
- **What can fathers and significant male role models do to become more engaged on and after 10.10.11?**
 - Six easy ways fathers and significant male role models can become involved:
 1. *Observe your child's classroom at least twice a year*
 2. *Participate in at least one Parent-Teacher Conference and/or Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meeting*
 3. *Attend at least one extra curricular (non-sporting) event this school year*
 4. *Join and participate in your child's school or any school's formal parent organization (PTA/PTSA/PTO)*
 5. *Assist with homework assignments*
 6. *Volunteer at least seven hours this year at your child's school*
- **Fathers/significant male role models: Have a major impact on student success. Data shows that when fathers and significant male role models are involved students:**
 - *Make As and Bs*
 - *Have greater motivation to succeed*
 - *Have higher self-esteem*
 - *Have less health and emotional problems*
 - *More confidence*
 - *Are less likely to use drugs*
 - *Girls are less likely to engage in pre-marital sex*
 - *Are less likely to become teenage parents*

Planning Day

Men Make A Difference Day

Working With Schools:

- Notify area school superintendents, board members and principals that men will visit their child's school.
- Ask the principal to assign a parent or staff person to manage the Men Make A Difference Day Campaign.
- Ask the principal to send a notice to families to invite men and participate on **10.10.11 (October 10, 2011) Men Make A Difference Day (MMDD)**.
- Ask the school administrator to invite men into a parent centered room or auditorium for a short program while their children are in class (and include light refreshments like coffee, juice, and cookies with this program).
- Suggest the school create packets for fathers and other significant male caregivers with information about your school and its programs for this coming school year.
- Suggest the school invite elected officials and dignitaries to greet men at the front of the school.
- Suggest the school create a letter, note, button or patch that says **"I am prepared to make a difference"** to pass out to fathers and other significant male caregivers as they arrive to school.
- Establish ways for fathers and other men to be involved with your school during the year.

Coordinating Outreach:

- Create a *Men Make A Difference Day (MMDD): 10.10.11 (October 10, 2011)* Organizing Committee in your city, town or village and plan to meet at least once a week until the day of **MMDD**.
- Partner with a school, faith-based organization or community organization that will serve as sponsor and fiscal agent for your initiative.
- Share the fact sheet ([on page 2](#)) with schools, faith-based organizations, community organizations, government agencies, chambers of commerce, businesses and elected officials.
- Notify area businesses about this event and ask them to support it by giving men who participate two to three hours off of work – preferably with pay.
- Notify newspapers, radio stations, television stations and other media about **Men Make A Difference Day Campaign**. ([Please use ATTACHED sample press release.](#))
- Use **Men Make A Difference Day Campaign** flyers or fact sheets to promote participation in this event.
- Share your ideas for promoting this event with **Forest Of The Rain Productions, Inc.** at 240.593.3813 or by email to forestoftherain@gmail.com.

A DAD'S PLEDGE OF ENGAGEMENT



Men Make A Difference Day

(Your Organization's Name) recognizes that fathers and significant male role models have a considerable role in the academic success of children. *(Your Organization's Name)* acknowledges parents are their children's first and most influential teachers. We are also acknowledging the successes of students are enhanced when an unbreakable partnership between home and school is created. To solidify this partnership *(Your Organization's Name)* are asking **DADS** and significant male role models in the lives of public schools students to join us in pledging to remain engaged in the academic lives of students. We are asking **DADS** to pledge to:

- Observe their child's classroom at least twice a year
- Attend a non-sports related school event
- Visit their child's school website for information
- Join and participate in a school's formal parent organization
- Volunteer in their child's school
- Attend an informational workshop held at their child's school
- Attend a school board meeting
- Assist their child with homework assignments
- Review and understand requirements for High School graduation
- Review and understand the role and expectations of an incoming 9th grader
- Participate in at least one Parent Teacher Conference

Name of School: _____

Signature of DAD: _____

Signature of Child: _____

Signature of Principal: _____

26 Ways Fathers Can Be Involved



Men Make A Difference Day

- **Observe your child's classroom at least twice a year**
- **Participate in at least one Parent-Teacher Conference and/or Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meeting**
- **Attend at least one extra curricular (non-sporting) event this school year**
- **Join and participate in your child's school or any school's formal parent organization (PTA/PTSA/PTO)**
- **Assist a student with their homework assignments**
- **Volunteer at least seven hours this year at your student's school**
- **Meet your child's Principal**
- **Check your child's backpack everyday**
- **Complete and review all forms sent home by school officials**
- **Meet your child's school based parent professional**
- **Visit the Public School System's website**
- **Follow the Public School System on Facebook and Twitter**
- **Consider becoming a teacher**
- **Ensure your child has school supplies for the entire school year**
- **Review your child's school calendar and become familiar with activities and school closings**
- **Discuss current and future goals with your child**
- **Discuss with your child how education plays a role in reaching goals**
- **Create a strategy with child on obtaining future goals**
- **Become familiar when possible with the health conditions of your child**
- **Meet regularly with school counselor and together advise your child n making the correct choices in education**
- **Participate in a variety of activities with your child**
- **Understand your Rights as a Parent in the Public School System**
- **Learn to navigate your Public School System's website**
- **When possible attend a School Board meeting**
- **Sign up to receive e-mail updates from your Public School System**
- **Join the school's School Improvement Team (SIT) or School Planning Management Team (SPMT)**

REGISTRATION FORM

(For schools, faith-based organizations, community organizations, government agencies, etc.)

Men Make A Difference Day 2011

Visit Your Children's School on 10.10.11

(Your Organization's Name) has issued a call to action for all men to participate on October 10, 2011 in **Men Make a Difference Day (MMDD)**. *(Your Organization's Name)* is asking that all fathers, uncles, brothers, sons, nephews and significant male role models visit their child's or family member's classroom and spend quality time with the student. Dads and significant male role models in the lives of children all over America are being asked to observe the student's daily routine, participate as allowed in the interactive classroom instruction, and get involved in the excitement of teaching and learning.

(Your Organization's Name) is suggesting six easy ways men can become involved in a child's education:

- Observe your child's classroom at least twice a year
- Participate in at least one Parent-Teacher Conference and/or Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meeting
- Attend at least one extra curricular (non-sporting) event this school year
- Join and participate in your child's school or any school's formal parent organization (PTA/PTSA/PTO)
- Assist a student with their homework assignments
- Volunteer at least seven hours this year at your student's school

Please add our names to Men Make a Difference Day (MMDD List of Sponsors)

School, School District, Church, Organization, Government Agency, Business, or other

(Please circle one category and the print name of your group)

Principal, Superintendent, Board President, Executive Director, Government Official, CEO or other:

(Please print your name and title)

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Estimated number of fathers and other men expected to participate _____

(Please sign your name)

(Date)

Please either fax this form to 301.725.6383, return by email to forestoftherain@gmail.com or mail to Forest OfTheRainProductions, Inc., P.O. Box 326, Savage, Maryland 20763, Please call us at 240.593.3813 or visit our website at www.menmakeadifferenceday.com for more information.