

56 HERO PROJECT IDEAS

Do you like to WRITE?

1. Write a song or a rap.
2. Write a letter to your governor requesting that we create a holiday to honor your hero.
3. Write a rebus (a story using words and pictures).
4. Write an article for a newspaper, newsletter, or magazine.
5. Write a poem.
6. Write a play about your hero.
7. Write the script for a talk show with your hero as the guest.
8. Write a letter to one of your hero's living descendents.
9. Write a story pretending you are your hero's pet.

Do you like to DRAW or CREATE projects?

10. Design a theme park around your hero, with each ride and attraction in the park teaching about your hero.
11. Name your school hallways after heroes and create street signs, historical markers, and murals.
12. Create a jigsaw puzzle of your hero.
13. Design a new money system with your hero's picture.
14. Create an autoshade with an heroic message.
15. Create a flag honoring your hero.
16. Create a hero lunchbox or lunchbag.
17. Create a hero bookmark.
18. Create a hero totem pole.
19. Create a hero cereal box.
20. Create a calendar about your hero's life and include important dates.
21. Create a series of hero buttons.
22. Create hero stickers.
23. Create a puppet that looks like your hero.
24. Make clothing covered with pictures, sayings, or facts about your hero (T-shirt, skirt, vest, armor, lab coat, jersey, cape, apron, neckties).
25. Create a hero license plate.
26. Create hero placemats.

27. Create a Hero Game (Concentration, Hero Charades).
28. Create hero wrapping paper.
29. Create hero magnets.
30. Create a hero bag (backpack, tote bag, suitcase).
31. Create a crossword puzzle about your hero.
32. Create an interactive timeline about your hero.
33. Create a hat about your hero.
34. Create a quilt about your hero.
35. Create a memory box/cube about your hero.
36. Create a hero job chart.
37. Create a map of places your hero has traveled/lived.
38. Create a mobile about your hero.
39. Create a scrapbook about your hero.
40. Create a billboard about your hero.
41. Create a model of a monument honoring your hero.
42. Create a symbol that represents your hero (a red cross, a cello, giant keys, a clock, a kite) then add 6 important facts about your hero to that symbol.
43. Create hero trading cards.
44. Create hero greeting cards.
45. Create hero stamps.
46. Create a hero mosaic.
47. Create a medal in honor of your hero.
48. Create a parade float about your hero.
49. Create Christmas tree ornaments showing your hero's achievements.
50. Draw a silhouette of your hero covered in your hero's positive character traits.
51. Create a comic strip about your hero.
52. Create a coloring book about your hero.
53. Create a mural about your hero.
54. Create a caricature of your hero.
55. Create a living wax museum. Everyone in your group or class chooses a different hero and "brings that hero to life" through projects and a story.
56. Fill a fanny pack full of objects your hero might have carried.

Why Should I Teach my Students About Heroes?

Because, many states' standards recognize the importance of heroes and...

Heroes make a difference in people's lives.

- Students understand the importance of individual action and character and explain how heroes from long ago and the recent past have made a difference in others' lives. (*CA: 2.5)
- The student will discuss the lives of Americans who expanded people's rights and freedoms in a democracy. (*GA: SS3H2)
- Describe the impact on American life of... (*GA: SS5H3b)
- The student will identify (certain historical figures) as Americans whose contributions improved the lives of other Americans. (*VA: 2.11)

Heroes help us to teach character education by the example of their lives.

- Learn examples of honesty, courage, determination, individual responsibility, and patriotism in American and world history from stories and folklore. (*CA: K.1.2)
- The student will retell stories that illustrate *positive character traits* and will explain how the people in the stories show these qualities. (*GA: SSKC2)
- The student will describe how historical figures display positive character traits. (*GA: SS1CG1)
- The student will give examples of how the historical figures under study demonstrate positive citizenship traits. (*GA: SS2CG3)
- After reading or listening to stories about famous Americans of different ethnic groups, faiths, and historical periods describe their qualities or distinctive traits. (*MA: 1.8 H,C)

Heroes contribute to society.

- Explain the influence and achievements of significant leaders of the time. (*CA: 5.3.6)
- After reading or listening to a variety of true stories about individuals recognized for their achievements, describe and compare different ways people have achieved great distinction (e.g. scientific, professional, political, religious, commercial, military, athletic, or artistic). (*MA: 2.10 H)
- Describe the lives of American heroes who took risks to secure our freedoms. (*CA: 3.4.6)
- Identifying the contributions of... (*VA: 3.11.b)
- Describe the cultural developments and individual contributions in the 1920s. (*GA: SS5H4b)
- Explain the key events and people of the Civil Rights movement. (*GA: SS5H8b)
- Describe major contributions to literature, art, and music. (*GA: SS6G8d)
- The student will recognize that history describes events and people of other times and places by identifying examples of past events in legends, stories, and historical accounts of... (*VA: K.1.a)
- Identifying the political, social, and/or economic contributions made by... (*VA: VA.9.c)
- Describe the enduring contributions of important Greek figures in the arts and sciences. (*CA: 6.4.8)

***CA: California; GA: Georgia; MA: Massachusetts; PA: Pennsylvania; VA: Virginia**
Note: specific heroes' names have not been included

Heroes have had a major impact on US history.

- Identify contributions of individuals and groups to United States history and individuals who are role models. (*PA: 8.3.3.A)
- The student will read about and describe the life of historical figures in American history. (*GA: SS1H1)
- Know the triumphs in American legends and historical accounts through the stories of people. (*CA: K.6.2)
- The student will describe the stories of American leaders and their contributions to our country. (*VA: 1.2)
- Describing key events and the roles of key individuals in the American Revolution. (*VA: US1.6.c, *GA: SS4H4d, *CA: 5.5.4, and *MA: 5.18)
- Identify the different roles women played during the Revolution. (*CA: 5.6.3)
- Identify the major individuals and groups responsible for the founding of the various colonies and the reasons for their founding. (*CA: 5.4.2 and *MA: 5.7)

Heroes have had a major impact on world history.

- Identify individuals and groups who have made significant political and cultural contributions to world history. (*PA: 8.4.3.A and 8.4.6.A)

Heroes have had a major impact on the history of individual states.

- Understand the political and cultural contributions of individuals and groups to Pennsylvania history. (*PA: 8.2.3.A and 8.2.6.A)
- The student will read about and describe the lives of historical figures in Georgia history and identify the contributions made by these historic figures. (*GA: SS2H1a)
- After reading a biography of a person from Massachusetts in one of the following categories, summarize the person's life and achievements (science and technology, the arts, education, journalism, health, and political leadership). (*MA: 3.7 H,c)

Many of our national holidays recognize heroes.

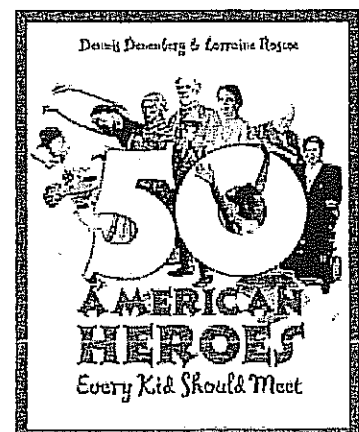
- Identify the purposes of, and the people and events honored in, commemorative holidays, including the human struggles that were the basis for the events. (*CA: K.6.1, *MA: 1.5 H,C,G, *VA: K.1.b and 1.3)
- Understand the significance of our national holidays and the heroism and achievements of the people associated with them. (*CA: 1.3.2, *GA: SSKH1, *MA: PreK-K.1)

How do I teach about Heroes?

An **excellent** resource to use for teaching about American heroes is:

50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet
by Dennis Denenberg and Lorraine Roscoe

To see a list of the 50 heroes and the format of the book, go to **www.Heroes4us.com**.



25 AMERICAN HEROES and their VALUES



Jane Addams	Friendship
Susan B. Anthony	Patience
Clara Barton	Compassion
Mary Mcleod Bethune	Love
Elizabeth Blackwell	Confidence
Cesar Chavez & Delores Huerta	Perseverance
Roberto Clemente	Helpfulness
Walt Disney	Creativity
Thomas Edison	Determination
Albert Einstein	Wonder
Benjamin Franklin	Service
Milton Hershey	Generosity
Helen Keller & Anne Sullivan	Commitment
The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	Steadfastness
Meriwether Lewis & William Clark & Sacagawea	Curiosity
Abe Lincoln	Honesty
George C. Marshall	Loyalty
John Muir	Foresight
Rosa Parks	Courage
Jackie Robinson & Branch Rickey	Co-operation
Eleanor Roosevelt	Kindness
Jonas Salk	Humility
Harry S Truman	Integrity
Harriett Tubman	Reliability
George Washington	Responsibility

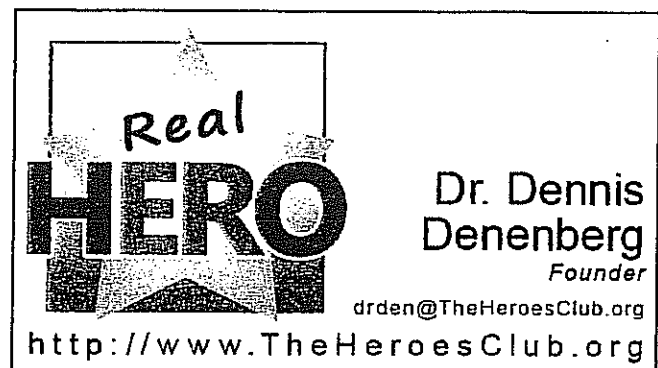
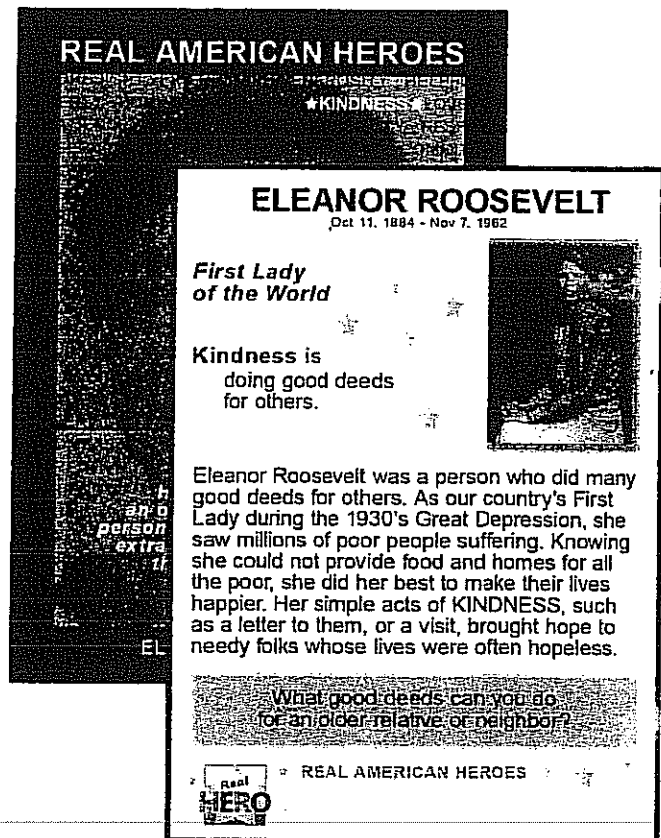


The Heroes Club™ *introduces* **Real American Heroes**

Trading Cards for Character Education Programs

We are pleased to introduce Real American Heroes Trading Cards, exciting new character education tools for elementary and middle-school age kids. These trading cards present 25 great American men and women, their actions, and a virtue they exemplify. Their incredible accomplishments helped to shape our country. Their strength of character helped them to overcome nearly insurmountable challenges. These are real people who achieved real results. The virtues of their actions offer our kids the opportunity to learn what is truly possible in their lives.

We invite you to visit our website and learn how this program can change the lives of your kids.



www.TheHeroesClub.org

Hero: an ordinary person who does extraordinary things - Do Extraordinary Things™

[picture and name of YOUR family's REAL hero here!]

TEACHING REAL HEROES IN YOUR HOME !

- 10) Read *50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet*.
 - 9) Rent and, as a family, watch videos about the lives and achievements of REAL heroes!
 - 8) Observe holidays to emphasize their true meaning: Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and so on.
 - 7) Visit heroes' homes and monuments and have family photographs taken at those sites.
 - 6) Choose a famous person as the "Family's Hero" and celebrate his/her birthday like a family birthday.
 - 5) Display REAL heroes in your home. The number one reason kids don't have heroes is they never see them.
-
- 4) Read biographies of REAL heroes as a family.
 - 3) Ask grandparents and others about their REAL heroes - both famous people and "unsung" heroes.
 - 2) Talk openly and often about the values which REAL heroes exemplify. Accentuate the positive!

And the Number 1 way to teach REAL HEROES in your home is TO BE A REAL HERO TO YOUR CHILDREN!

EDUCATION

Dennis Denenberg

Author & Public Speaker



If you ask a group of kids who their heroes are, most will probably name cartoon characters. Maybe a few will tell you their hero is a singer, actor or sports figure. But Manheim native Dr. Dennis Denenberg isn't satisfied with fame or fantasy being the only ways one becomes a hero in kids' impressionable minds.

Co-author of the book *50 American Heroes Every Kid Should Meet*, Denenberg hopes to replace the comic-book creations and movie-theater characters with what he calls "real heroes" — people who, while they're not perfect, make the world a better place — including inventor Thomas Alva Edison, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, humanitarian and diplomat Eleanor

Roosevelt, and medical pioneer Jonas Salk. The book is hands-on: Every hero has an activity associated with him or her, and books are recommended for further reading. "The book is intended to whet a child's appetite about a hero, so that the child says, I want to learn more about, say, Elizabeth Blackwell, America's first female doctor," says Denenberg.

The original idea was sparked when Denenberg wrote an editorial piece, titled "De-ALF the Classroom," for a teaching magazine in 1989. "It was one of those light-bulb experiences," he says. "I got to see a lot of elementary classrooms across the area, and what I'd see overwhelmingly were cartoon figures — where are the real people?" From that one-page article, Denenberg, who worked in the field of education for 30 years, including 15 years as a professor in the Elementary and Early Childhood Department at Millersville University, now has a second career. It has led him to 37 states and counting, where he leads insightful, fun seminars for teachers and parents, encouraging them to make the stories of the heroes part of their daily lives.

"If this is going to work, it has to be woven into the curriculum," he says. Using props and costumes, Denenberg portrays characters such as Harry Truman and Eleanor Roosevelt, bringing their stories to life. "The most distant, remote person is hooked by Eleanor," he says.

Denenberg also feels it's a shame that we seem to hide away the stories of people whose positive actions have stood the test of time. "You ask a typical young person who Jonas Salk is, and they don't have a clue," he says. "You may not be walking today if it weren't for Dr. Jonas Salk — he found the vaccine that prevented polio." Real heroes, says Denenberg, can be an inspiration for kids to never give up on their own goals. Following the examples of real people, they can say, "I can be like that." "You mean Elizabeth Blackwell persevered and became a doctor, even though nobody wanted her to become a doctor?" he asks rhetorically. "That's exactly right."

So, who is Denenberg's favorite hero? Thomas Jefferson, "because of his mind," he says. "He just wondered about everything."

Still, his biggest role models are unsung heroes, such as his late parents, who he says never said an unkind word to each other in front of their children; his eighth-grade history teacher, who encouraged him to love the subject; and his sister, Diana, who battled various forms of cancer for 18 years but had a spirit that was simply unbreakable. He always encourages his audiences to take the time to thank the heroes in their own lives. Denenberg also donates all of his speaking money to charity, including a room in Millersville's new education building that's dedicated to his parents. Outside the room is a garden dedicated to Diana.

With Denenberg's obvious passion for his subject, it seems the only thing not in his future is retirement. His goal, he says, will continue to be empowering teachers to empower students with the stories of true heroes.

"History is the best story ever," he says, and adds, "I'm the messenger — it's the message that's important."

Dennis Denenberg dedicates this award to his hero, Diana Lin Durand, his sister, who died on October 21, 2007, after a courageous and always positive 18-year struggle with cancer.