

Operation Spontaneous Smiley



Dear Teachers and Student Leaders,

Operation Smile is a children's medical charity that sends volunteers around the world to provide free corrective surgery on children with facial deformities like cleft lips and cleft palates.

Spontaneous Smiley is an art Project that lives on the Internet, where thousands of people from around the globe photograph and share Smiley faces they find in everyday objects.

The two organizations have partnered to create an initiative called *Operation Spontaneous Smiley*. Through this program, students will participate in a Smile-A-Thon to raise money for Operation Smile, and change lives of children forever. A Smile-A-Thon is like a Walk-A-Thon, but instead of students asking family and friends to sponsor *by the MILE*, they ask to be sponsored *by the SMILE*.

Learn about Operation Smile at www.OperationSmile.org, and get Smile-A-Thon details and materials at www.OperationSmile.org/Smiley. Resources include educational information to help you teach students about the charity's goals, cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities.

Operation Spontaneous Smiley has several components; therefore we suggest you introduce the initiative through a school assembly or class meeting. During the introduction, you can excite students by using a related lesson plan to teach them about Operation Smile, and show them the Operation Smile (www.OperationSmile.org) and Spontaneous Smiley (www.SpontaneousSmiley.com) websites. To clarify how to identify Spontaneous Smileys, students should view the online gallery at <http://gallery.me.com/ruthkaiser/100047>. Part of the program involves uploading photographs to the computer. Encouraging computer teachers to demonstrate this skill may prove helpful.

Students will use digital cameras to photograph Smileys they find, and upload photographs at www.OperationSmile.org/Smiley. So Spontaneous Smiley can track the number of Smileys each child uploads, save pictures as "**Child's Name-Room/Troop Number-School/Organization.**" For example, *BobSmith-14-Rheem Elementary*. Remember to fill in dates for the Smile-A-Thon in the letter to the students and parents.

Once students ask for pledges and complete their Smiley Hunt, they will collect and turn in CHECKS that are made out to Operation Smile. In the memo section write "Spontaneous Smiley" and the child's name. Mail checks to the address listed below. No cash please.

Thank you for your support!

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