

Service Learning Requirements

The basic requirements for this assignment sound simple: complete **30 hours** of service, either for an approved non-profit agency, or through a student-directed project. But making this assignment meaningful and worthwhile takes a little more planning. Take some time now to think about how you will accomplish your service.

Learning Objective

The purpose of the service learning requirement is for you to gain valuable job skills, contribute to your community, and do something that matters to you. Along the way, you'll learn a lot of valuable skills: communicating effectively with adults, dressing appropriately for work, paying attention to details, etc. Make a list of three specific skills you would like to learn and practice during your service experience:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Planning Your Service

To plan your service, you need to determine what your own interests are and what issues you would like to be involved with. You've already created a portfolio in WOIS. Look up your results in the Career Interest Areas survey. List your top three results here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What types of volunteer activities might match any of the above career interest areas? If you need ideas for places to volunteer, check out this website:

<http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/shared/assets/WhereToCare20031754.pdf>. You can also find it through the "Where to Care" link off the Rose Hill Service Learning Page. List your ideas below:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name:

What social issues are you most concerned about? If you can't think of any, check out the list of social issues at this website: <http://www.kcls.org/hh/socialissues.cfm>. Make a list of three social issues that are important to you.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Now think of three places you could volunteer that relate to at least one of these social issues:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Planning Your Time

Now make a plan for how you will complete your service learning hours.

- Fifteen (15) hours may be done over the summer.
- Ten (10) hours may be done during school-time for school-related activities (ASB, recycling club, etc.)
- Ten hours will be done through an in-class project in social studies, related to the ninth grade CBA (classroom-based assessment) project.
- All hours must be documented on the official service learning form and signed by an adult supervisor.

What is your plan for completing your service learning?

Hours over the summer: _____

Type of service you plan to do over the summer: _____

Hours during the school year: _____

Type of service you plan to do during the school year: _____

Name:

Recording Your Time

When your hours are completed, have your supervisor sign off on the “Service Learning Record of Hours.” This is extremely important! This form is the proof for the work you have done, so don’t lose it, and don’t forget to get it signed! It is also a valuable job reference for the future!

Also, don’t forget to keep notes on the work that you do. You might want to keep a journal of your experiences. You are welcome to take pictures if that’s approved by your supervisor. Keep a record of what you’ve done. This will allow you to better remember the experience at the end of the year when you present it to the class.

Reflecting on Your Experience

You will be required to submit a written reflection of your service at the end of the school year. Prepare for that by reflecting on these questions.

Describe each project that you worked in detail. In other words, write a paragraph for each different place that you worked.

- What was your assigned task?
- Why did you choose to do this task?
- What times did you work?
- Who did you report to?
- What were your learning objectives? What did you learn?
- How did you feel about the work you were doing?
- What feedback did you receive on your work? Think about the form your supervisor had to sign, or feedback they gave you when you finished.
- How might the work that you did prepare you for a future career?

Now reflect on service learning in general. Answer these questions.

- What does your service learning experience say about you as a planner, a worker, and a community member?
- What are your plans for volunteer work in the future?
- Why do you think service learning projects are required at both the junior and senior high level?
- How does service learning help the image of young people in our community?
- Why is volunteering time sometimes more effective than giving money?
- What advice would you give next year’s ninth graders?

Name:

Service Learning Record of Hours

Name of Student: _____ Date: _____

Organization: _____ Phone: _____

Supervisor: _____ Title: _____

Rating System:

1 = Excellent 2 = Good 3 = Fair 4 = Poor 5 = Failing 6 = Does Not Apply

Circle One

1. Reports regularly and punctually.	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Attends to tasks assigned to him/her by agency.	1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Is attired and groomed appropriately.	1	2	3	4	5	6
4. Performs tasks with a positive and willing attitude.	1	2	3	4	5	6
5. Is capable of independent work.	1	2	3	4	5	6
6. Responds creatively to criticism.	1	2	3	4	5	6
7. Is aware of own strengths and weaknesses.	1	2	3	4	5	6
8. Handles problems situations well.	1	2	3	4	5	6
9. Makes an effort to learn about the agency and clients.	1	2	3	4	5	6
10. Establishes good rapport with staff, clients, others.	1	2	3	4	5	6
11. Overall rating of student's performance.	1	2	3	4	5	6

Description of services that student provided:

Additional comments:

I certify that the above student accomplished _____ hours of satisfactory service.

Signature

Date

Name:

Why Service Learning?

When you participate in service, you gain both personally and academically. You will become contributors to an improved community rather than disconnected and powerless. You will be able to use the skills you learn in class in real-life situations. You will also feel better about yourself. As you learn to ask open-ended questions, to follow oral directions, to listen actively, and to interact with people you do not know, your communication skills will improve. You will also master problem-solving skills. To be successful, you'll need to learn how to be helpful, and how to work with other people. You will also practice basic job skills: dressing appropriately, responding to supervision, asking for guidance. You'll be able to take your experiences and use them for the rest of your life.

But why take our word for it? Listen to your fellow classmates.

Student Reflections

Service learning. . .

- *boosts our self-esteem by showing us what we can do.*
- *helps us meet people who have the same interests.*
- *helped me develop leadership skills and get me going.*
- *helps people realize how much young people are needed and how much they really can help.*
- *helps us be aware of what's going on in our community, state, country.*
- *helps people that need help.*
- *lets us have a lot of fun helping other people.*

We take things for granted, and never stop to think about the things we have. After watching the tapes, I thought about the things that I have that I myself take for granted. Something as simple as having my own bedroom, being able to walk and run, and going to a school where I have friends. I bet if you think about it really hard, you can find something that you have had all your life, and learn to appreciate it. . . even if it's only for a second.

At one point I thought of myself working at a place like this in the future.

Name:

Types of Service

Just as each of you have different interests and concerns, there are different types of service. Choose the type of service that best suits your interests and concerns. Of course, you might wish to try a couple different service projects, or a combination of them.

- **Direct** service provides service directly to a person in need. Examples would be tutoring, mentoring, or visiting the elderly.
- **Indirect** service is working with a group of people, or an organization, to provide what is necessary to people in need. Examples would be food drives, fund-raisers, clean-ups, or environmental improvements.
- **Advocacy** tries to solve the problem that is causing the need. Examples would be writing letters to people in government or putting on presentations to educate people.

Following is a story that illustrates these three types of service.

Direct Service

One day, two friends were enjoying a peaceful walk along a riverbank when suddenly they heard a disturbing cry. Looking out into the water they saw a tiny baby coming towards them on a small raft. They knew they had to act so they jumped into the fortunately shallow water and brought the child to safety. They then discussed how they could temporarily feed and care for the child.

Indirect Service

It seems the two friends were just about to head back into town with their new friend when from the river they heard even louder cries!! Quickly investigating they saw six babies now in the same situation all helplessly floating towards them on little rafts. So while one stayed to protect the first baby, the other hero jumped into the water and gathered up all the babies and brought them out to safety. Now standing there with seven crying babies the two friends knew they needed help so one decided to stay and protect all the children while the other went into town. While there, the alert would be put out to collect food, diapers, and bedding for the little ones soon to arrive.

Advocacy Service

Our story is not quite over because before anybody left for town there was even a louder cry from the river. You guessed it!! A dozen babies now were needing to be pulled out to safety. The job done and standing knee deep in crying babies one friend said to the other, "You stay here and protect these children and I will go up the river and find out who is throwing these helpless babies in the water and make sure they stop it!!"

Name:

Idea List

Still searching for potential projects? There's no end to the good ideas that can make a difference! Here are some suggestions.

- Scrub and paint a public school.
- Collect toys for families who lost homes in fires or floods.
- Clean up your neighborhood.
- Take flowers to a senior citizen's home.
- Do yard work for the elderly or disabled.
- Make pans of lasagna for a homeless shelter.
- Clean out your attic and give clothes to the Salvation Army.
- Have a walk-a-thon for your favorite cause.
- Clean a park or a hiking trail.
- Paint over graffiti.
- Plant flowers in public places.
- Serve lunch at a soup kitchen.
- Raise money to buy books for your library.
- Read to a child.
- Clean up a beach.
- Give free blood pressure tests.
- Take your pet to visit hospital patients and shut-ins.
- Have a marathon sewing session to make clothes for poor children.
- Clean and repair wheelchairs.
- Have a puppet show for needy kids.
- Recycle cans and give the money to a homeless family that needs a security deposit for an apartment.
- Tape record books for learning disabled children or the blind.
- Fulfill a wish for a needy family.
- Collect warm clothing.
- Adopt a school.
- Adopt a grandmother/grandfather.
- Make a canned food donation part of admission to your high school football game.
- Hold a party, picnic or scavenger hunt for special needs children.
- Have a senior prom for residents of a nursing home or adult day-care center.
- Build shelves--and fill them--at a food bank.
- Replant trees in fire-damaged areas.
- Test the vision and hearing of pre-school children and the disabled.
- Do practice job interviews for teens.
- Clip coupons and go on a shopping spree for a shelter.
- Winterize the homes of senior citizens.
- Hold a drug-awareness march.
- Start a friendship with a shut-in.
- Give warm socks to the homeless.
- Volunteer to walk dogs for ill people.
- Hold a benefit concert.
- Clean a creek.
- Build a playground--or reclaim it from trash.
- Have a community garage sale for a cause.
- Have a benefit carwash.
- Bake banana bread for seniors and deliver it with a song.
- Paint a Boys and Girls Club.

Name:

Planning a Group Project

Would you like to be part of a group project? Get a group of interested people together, find a teacher willing to mentor you, and get started! Following these steps can help you plan a great project.

Brainstorming

Get as many ideas as possible. The quantity of ideas, not quality, is important. Do not evaluate and discuss them yet. Brainstorming helps a group to think creatively and gets everyone involved.

Record Your Ideas

Record your ideas on the board to focus the group's attention on the discussion. This also helps people to see the plan develop visually and prevents people from repeating things.

Facilitating

Someone needs to oversee this meeting to make sure that people stick to the process. The facilitator makes sure that everyone stays involved, asks the right questions to be sure everything is being covered and keeps the discussion moving along.

Coordinating the Project

Usually someone "chairs" or runs the project, but they often wind up doing everything themselves. We want everyone to take an active role, so we don't want one person "running" the project. However, it might be helpful to have one or two people who are responsible for checking in with everyone to see how they're doing and letting people know when there is a problem.

Now, armed with these basic tools, here are the steps.

1. Develop the goal of the project.

- Brainstorm what you want to accomplish. Remember the community need or problem that you are concerned with.
- Go over the list and determine which of the goals you came up with that you want to use for the project.
- Goals are things that you want to happen as a result of the specific activities you are planning. Example: For the road cleanup, the goals were to have a clean highway and learn about the environment. To achieve the goal we picked up trash and had a discussion about the environment.

Name:

2. Develop a detailed picture of the project.

- Keeping the project goals in mind, think about the specifics of the project (these specifics are called objectives).
- What exactly do you want to have happen? Brainstorm a list of ideas.
- Evaluate the list and decide what you want to do. Consider what activities would help you reach your goal, and what can you do realistically with the people, money, time, etc. that you have.

3. List the tasks that must be completed to carry out the project. Consider the following questions.

- How much money do we need? How can we get it?
- Who do we need to talk to about this project?
- What forms do we need to fill out?
- What publicity do we need?
- How many people do we want involved? How will we recruit them?
- What supplies do we need? Where will we get them? Can we get it donated?

4. Develop a plan of action.

- Divide the tasks that need to be done among the group. Who is doing what?
- Develop a timeline. When do the different tasks need to be done by? When does the group need to meet?

5. Brainstorm a list of problems and solutions.

- List all the possible problems.
- Evaluate each one and discuss ways to solve/prevent them.

6. Make it clear what needs to be done in the near future.

- Who is doing what before the next meeting?
- When is the next meeting?
- Can everyone make it? If someone can't make it, who is going to fill them in?

7. Have your mentor fill out an assessment when you are finished.

Name: