

Service-learning Fact Sheet

Characteristics of Service-learning

- Is a method for individuals to learn and develop through active participation
- Is organized to meet community needs
- Promotes civic responsibility
- Builds the educational component of the program
- Encourages participants to reflect on the service experience
- Helps volunteers learn about their personal strengths and interests

Service-learning is Different from:

- **Volunteerism** —people who decide to perform service for others without pay
- **Community Service** — community volunteering, perhaps as a result of a court order or probation sentence
- **Youth Service** — an overarching term for all approaches that involve community youth as resources
- **Experiential Education** — a term describing educational approaches that emphasize learn by doing

Types of Service

- **Direct Service:** provides assistance directly to members of the community
- **Indirect Service:** involves a “behind the scenes” approach to provide service
- **Advocacy:** seeks to resolve an issue facing the community

Elements of Effective Service-learning

- Engages youth
- Involves meaningful service
- Develops problem solving skills
- Applies skills learned
- Requires cooperation
- Includes reflection



Steps of Service-learning

- Select a project
- Set objectives to accomplish
- Prepare for the project
- Perform service activity
- Reflect on the experience
- Evaluate the project
- Celebrate the group's accomplishments

Reflection on Service-learning

- Distinguishes service-learning from other service projects
- Helps participants better understand what they learned from the experience, why the project was important, and to think about actions to take in the future
- Can be completed in a number of creative ways

Benefits of Service-learning

- Self-esteem
- Empowerment
- Critical thinking
- Civic responsibility
- Leadership
- Communication
- Team building