

Service-Learning and Community Service



What is Community Service?

Community service engages students in communities through activities that primarily focus on a service provided and how that service will make a difference in the lives of the recipients.

What is Service Learning?

Service-Learning is a teaching methodology in which community service opportunities serve as the connection between theory and practice for students, while at the same time instructors using this methodology to ensure that a real and needed service is provided to the community.

Resources

To learn more about student involvement in community service, visit these websites:

- * ISU Student Volunteer Center:
www.deanofstudents.ilstu.edu/serviceandleadership/svc/
- * National Campus Compact:
www.compact.org
- * Campus Outreach Opportunity League (COOL):
www.cool2serve.org
- * Break Away:
www.alternativebreaks.org
- * Population Connection:
www.populationconnection.org
- * National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness:
www.nscanh.org
- * Student Coalition for Action in Literacy Education (SCALE):
www.readwriteact.org
- * Student Civic Engagement Campaign:
www.actionforchange.org

Why Volunteer?

- * One person can make a difference
- * Your help and skill are valued resources
- * Volunteer work is fun and fulfilling
- * Volunteering is a great way to put classroom theory into practice
- * Studies reveal those who volunteer live longer, healthier, happier lives
- * There is no better way to learn about your community than to get involved
- * Leadership skills can be gained through volunteering
- * Employers are looking for employees with volunteer experience

Volunteer With Your Group/Club/Team/Organization

- * Volunteering together can be a great way to get to know each other
- * Volunteer work builds team cohesiveness
- * Your members can build valuable skills through volunteering
- * Your club or organization views service to others as a core value, which a volunteer project can reinforce to your members
- * Providing leadership roles in your group volunteer projects can be a great way to cultivate future leaders for your organization
- * Volunteer work can be a great publicity opportunity for your organization
- * Community Service involvement provides terrific networking opportunities. Connect with your community through community service

How Do You Begin to Get Involved in Service Learning/Community Service?

- * Visit Illinois State University's Student Volunteer Center, 130 Student Services Building, and register you and your group in the Volunteer Match Up Program. You and your group can be matched with a volunteer opportunity that meets with your interest and availability.
- * Take a class with a service-learning component.
- * Encourage your group to volunteer together in a one day service project as a team builder.
- * Develop a partnership between your group and a local non-profit in need of volunteers on an on-going basis.
- * Volunteer on your own and then share your experience with members of your group.

Student Involvement Center
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