



Service-learning is . . .

According to the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993, service-learning is a method whereby participants learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized service that

- Is organized in and meets the needs of a community;
- Helps foster civic responsibility;
- Enhances the educational component of the community service agency; and,
- Provides structured time for participants to reflect on the service experience.

In short, service-learning is community service that teaches volunteers about themselves and the world around them.

Service-learning is **NOT** the same as . . .

- **Volunteerism** — a term used to refer to people who choose on their own to perform some service for others without pay
- **Community Service** — volunteering done in the community (sometimes done through a court order or sentencing program)
- **Youth Service** — an umbrella term for all approaches to involving youth as resources in the community
- **Experiential Education** — a broader term for various educational approaches that emphasize learning by doing

Types of service:

- **Direct Service** — Volunteers work directly with community members or those being served.
- **Indirect Service** — Volunteers work on an issue from a more “behind the scenes” approach.
- **Advocacy** — Volunteers work to advocate for the alleviation of a community issue.

“Service-learning is a form of experiential learning where students apply knowledge, skills, and wise judgment to address genuine community needs.”

~ Jim and Pam Toole

Source: *Points of Light Foundation Youth Outreach*