



# Elements of Service-learning

## **Youth Voice and Planning**

Listening to and engaging youth in the service-learning process provides more ownership and greater learning opportunities for the young people.

## **Community Need and Voice**

Service-learning projects should meet real community needs. To truly solve problems and provide authentic learning opportunities for youth, actively engage the community in identifying needs.

## **Learning Objectives**

Youth should understand what they are expected to learn through their service. Outline objectives of what youth will learn on a personal, social, and intellectual level.

## **Orientation and Training**

To provide effective service and maximize the learning experience, youth must understand all aspects of the project: issues, organization, expectations, atmosphere of service site, date and time, personalities of beneficiaries, legalities, skills for any equipment they may use, what could go wrong, etc.

## **Meaningful Service**

A successful service experience requires thorough planning of goals, resources, supervision, transportation, logistics, and risk management.

## **Reflection**

Youth should employ critical thinking skills to examine the service experience. This process helps youth to grow on a personal, social, and intellectual level.

## **Evaluation**

Throughout the service experience, youth and adults should analyze the process (what was done) and the impact (results) of the service.

## **Celebration and Recognition**

Youth should always be recognized and celebrated for providing valuable service to the community. Celebration can bring closure to the project and reinforces the value of the young people's connection to what they accomplished.

*Adapted from materials by Points of Light Foundation Youth Outreach*