

Service Learning Training Guide



Journeying Together.

Inquire

Inform

Invite

Invest

STEP 1: PREPARATION

While preparation does include the logistics of gathering supplies, raising money and making travel arrangements, there's more to be done in order to set the stage for a positive service experience. The preparation step should include intentional efforts to build community with time dedicated to sharing expectation, acquiring skills needed for the service experience, and learning about the organization or community where you will serve. Don't forget to include listening to the organization or communities' expressed needs and expectations.

STEP 4: CELEBRATION

This final step ties together the other three steps, as youth find ways to celebrate what was accomplished and share their experience with others. It's a time of worship, as you recognize and rejoice in the ways God has called you to serve and challenges you to continue to live as servant leaders.

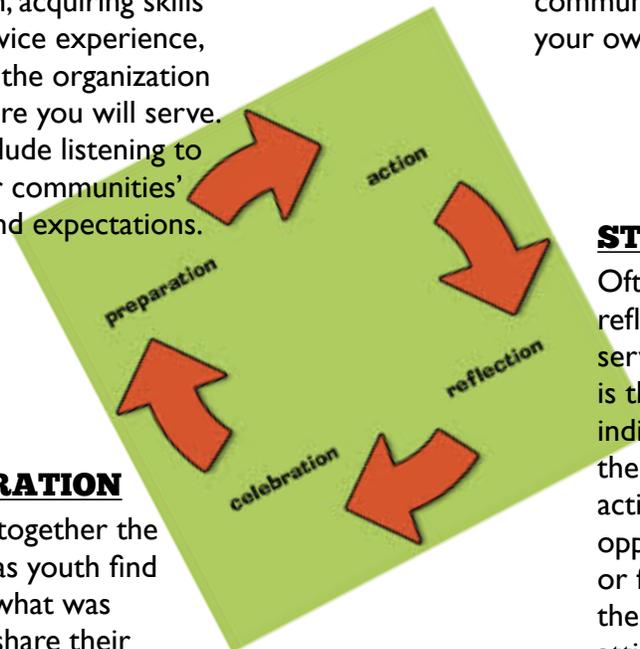
STEP 2: ACTION

The service learning process includes an actual service experience. Leaders should choose service activities that are meaningful and engaging, are realistic for the group's resources (including time available), and address expressed community needs (versus imposing your own expectations).

STEP 3: REFLECTION

Often overlooked or delayed, the reflection stage is essential to the service learning process, because it is through critical reflection that individuals learn and grow from their experiences. Debriefing activities provide youth with opportunities to consider thoughts or feelings that have emerged and the potential impact on their attitudes or behaviors.

Reflection can happen in a variety of creative ways, including small-group discussions, art, dance, journaling, storytelling, Bible study, devotions and more.



Service Learning in 4 Steps

STEP 1: PREPARATION

Listen Deeply • Build community • Plan Ahead

Listen and Learn

- Identify priorities, needs, concerns and opportunities by listening to the community where service will take place
- Meet with community partners
- Choose a service activity
- We will listen to and learn from our community by:

Build Community

- Identify gifts and talents within the group
- Share expectations
- Create learning goals
- What we hope to learn or accomplish is:

- The skills we hope to develop are:

Plan Ahead

- Make necessary preparations for transportation, supplies, scheduling, etc.

STEP 2: ACTION

Engage in Service • With and Among • In Jesus' name

Engage in Service

- Purposeful prayer
- Become involved and empowered
- Remain flexible
- If things don't go according to plan / If expectations are not met we will:
 - We will stay grounded in our learning goals and purpose by:
 - We will make sure everyone finds a meaningful role and is included by:
 - We will involve the congregation by:
 - How will we seek God's presence during the experience? How will we identify how God is working?

STEP 3: REFLECTION

Discover Meaning • Go Deeper • Beyond Volunteering

Discover Meaning

- Make time for personal and group reflection
- Consider how and when we reflect
- Incorporate Scripture
- Consider how and when we will debrief:

Go Deeper

- Discuss how goals and expectations were met or changed by the experience
- How this experience might shape our future attitudes or behaviors:

STEP 4: CELEBRATION

Worship and celebrate • Tell the Story • Now What?

Worship and Celebrate

- Incorporate Scripture, prayer and spiritual practices
- We will celebrate by:

- Now what?

Tell the Story

- Share the experience with others
- Thank congregation, supporters and service partners
- We will share our experience by:

Now what?