

Service Learning Project Development



In Chapter 4, you learned that service learning is an activity that promotes many of the youth development principles (e.g., connection with the community) and practices (e.g., youth decision-making, leadership, and reflection). Staff members can use service learning activities or projects to help improve youth academic achievement, develop their leadership skills, strengthen ties to the community, and provide real-life experience.

Directions: Use this template in partnership with youth to design a service learning project. There are a variety of ways to come up with a service learning project. You can use the *Community Inventory for Service Learning (Tool 78)*. We

also suggest identifying your service learning project through a youth-led asset mapping activity (**Tool 34**) or conducting a youth-researched market analysis (**Tool 15**) or a needs assessment (**Tool 35**). Ideally, youth should drive the development of the activity. Younger youth may need additional support to complete this template. Staff members should provide support and guidance throughout the process.

Service Learning Project Plan

Project Name: _____

Subject Area/Grade Level: _____

Purpose of the Project: _____

Provide a short description of the service learning project and issue that will be addressed:

Task	What Is Needed?	Resources Available?	Strategies/Action Steps	Who Is Responsible?
Scheduling the service project (i.e., logistics)				
Permission process (e.g., parents, release time)				
Transportation (i.e., how youth will get to service site)				
Identifying needs of community				
Outreach to community partner				
Documentation of service project (i.e., hours spent, credit)				
Safety/risk management				
Fundraising (e.g., for additional activities)				
Other				

Academic Goals

List the academic subject area(s) and corresponding learning standard(s) that the project will address.

Civic Goals

List the knowledge, skills, and competencies that will be emphasized in the project.

Youth Voice and Choice

What opportunities for youth to take on leadership roles exist for this project?

Timeline

How much time will you need to complete this project? Develop a detailed timeline with a clear start and end date and milestones along the way. Make sure to give the project enough time to make progress and see the results of your work.

Start date: _____

Milestone 1: _____

Milestone 2: _____

Milestone 3: _____

Milestone 4: _____

End date: _____

Celebrating Your Project Through a Culminating Event

How will you celebrate the achievement when the project is done? How will you involve and celebrate the community?

Reflection

How will you reflect on and share your growth at the conclusion of this project?

Evaluation

How will you evaluate the success of the project, including progress toward expected goals and outcomes for the community?
