

Community Leadership and Service Learning

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Leadership

“Leadership is influence.”

-Dr. John Maxwell



Leadership

**“Learning to do, Doing to
learn, Earning to live,
Living to serve.”**

-from the FFA Motto



What is service learning?

- An educational method by which:
 - participants learn and develop through active participation in service that is conducted *in* and *meets the needs* of a community.
 - Service learning is *coordinated* with a schools, other programs and the community.
 - Is part of a person's *lifelong learning*.
 - Includes *structured* time for reflection on the service experience.

Citation: Virginia Commission for National & Community Service



More about service learning

- Service-learning:
 - Fosters civic responsibility
 - Is integrated into the curriculum.

● Citation: Students in Service to America, 2006.





What service learning does

- Kellogg Foundation and Learn and Serve America:
 - Increased student engagement
 - Students become more active learners.
 - Makes connections between the knowledge they are acquiring in the classroom and its use in the real world.
 - Critical thinking is encouraged.
 - Improved academic achievement
 - When teachers explicitly tie service activities to academic standards and learning objectives, students can show gains on test measures.
 - Improved thinking skills and Resources
 - Students improve on ability to analyze complex tasks, solve new problems, and make decisions.



What service learning does

- Kellogg Foundation and Learn and Serve America:
 - Improved character
 - Service-learning promotes responsibility, trustworthiness, and caring for others. Encourages volunteerism in the future.
 - Improved social behavior
 - Young people who are active in service learning are less likely to engage in risky behaviors.
 - Stronger ties to schools, communities, and society
 - Service-learning creates a sense of belonging to and responsibility for their communities.



What service learning does

- Kellogg Foundation and Learn and Serve America:
 - Exposure to new careers
 - Positive school environments
 - Teachers, students and parents feel better about the experience.
 - Reduces negative student behaviors and dropout rates.
 - Stronger community groups
 - Young people can revitalize stale community groups.
 - Increased community support for schools
 - Public support for schools can grow as a result of student involvement in community activities.



Successful Service Learning

- These are effective practices:
 - Service activities should be large enough to be meaningful (40 hrs per student per school year).
 - Teachers must integrate service learning into the curriculum, and projects must have specific objectives.
 - The relationship between service and democracy must be evident. Students have to see the need for civic responsibility.
 - Participants must have time for structured reflection.
 - Students must be involved in leading the service learning project.
 - The project must be meaningful to the community.



Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 1: Assess the Needs and Resources of Your Community and School
 - Consult with community members, civic groups, businesses, government officials, school personnel, and students to determine both the needs of your community and the available resources, including partnership opportunities.



Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 2: Form Community Partnerships
 - Build on existing relationships and connections, or you can develop new ones with potential partners identified in Step 1.
 - Be realistic about your resources, needs, and limitations, and make sure that your goals are of mutual interest to all of your partners.



Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 3: Set Specific Educational Goals and Curriculum
 - What do you expect students to learn?
 - Set specific educational goals.
 - When evaluating student performance, assess their effort and mastery of the subject. Service out-comes may not be what you expect.



Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 4: Select a Project and Begin Preliminary Planning
 - Try to determine your human, financial, physical, and intellectual needs and whether you need additional partners to provide the required resources.



Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 5: Plan Your Project in Detail
 - Set up a timeline, create a budget, and assign tasks.





Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 6: Acquire Necessary Funding and Resources





Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 7: Implement and Manage Project
 - Put your plan into action.
 - Measure progress.





Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 8: Organize Reflection Activities
 - Make sure students stay focused on the SLP.





Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 9: Assess and Evaluate Your Service Program
 - Insure that your evaluation assesses the outcomes of the service project for the youth, the community, and the organizations involved.





Steps to implementing service learning (Students in Service to America, 2006)

- Step 10: Celebrate Achievements
 - Recognition may include: displays in school or online, celebratory events such as ribbon cuttings or groundbreakings, visits by local officials, and participation in national chapter awards.





Define Servant Leadership

- Servant Leadership – The natural feeling to serve first and lead others to join.
 - A person who does this within a given community is a servant leader.
 - Everyone has the capacity to be a servant leader.



Characteristics of a Servant Leader

- Has personal passion.
- Chosen by followers.
- Commits to a problem until effective change has occurred.





Principles of Servant Leadership

1. Listening

Gathering data from the community and from the partners in the service learning project (SLP).





Principles of Servant Leadership

2. Empathy

Understanding the peculiar nature of people.





Principles of Servant Leadership

3. Healing

You are building people up.





Principles of Servant Leadership

4. Awareness

General awareness, and especially self-awareness, strengthens the servant-leader.





Principles of Servant Leadership

5. Persuasion

Servant-leaders rely on persuasion, rather than positional authority in making decisions.





Principles of Servant Leadership

6. Conceptualization

The ability to look at a problem (or an organization) from a conceptualizing perspective means that one must think beyond day-to-day realities.





Principles of Servant Leadership

7. Foresight

Foresight is a characteristic that enables servant-leaders to understand lessons from the past, the realities of the present, and the likely consequence of a decision in the future.





Principles of Servant Leadership

8. Stewardship

Everyone plays significance roles in holding their institutions in trust for the great good of society.





Principles of Servant Leadership

9. Commitment to the Growth of People

Servant-leaders believe that people have an intrinsic value beyond their tangible contributions as workers.





Principles of Servant Leadership

10. Building Community

Servant-leaders seek to identify a means for building community.


