

# Getting Learning Out of Serving

*“Experience is not what happens to a man; it is what a man does with what happened to him.” – Aldous Huxley*

**What is Service Learning?** Service Learning is the blending of community service and learning. The goal is to blend service and learning so that the service reinforces, improves and strengthens the learning, and the learning reinforces, improves and strengthens the service. The pedagogy of service-learning, at its best, produces a greater impact than either could have produced separately.

**Why Reflection?** Reflection is the key to getting meaning from your service experience. What is reflection? A process by which service-learners think critically about their experiences. Reflection can happen through writing, speaking, listening, and reading about the service experiences. Why is reflection important? Learning happens through a mix of theory and practice, thought and action, observation and interaction. It allows students to learn from themselves.

## GOALS of Service – Learning

- To fill unmet needs in the community through direct service that is meaningful and necessary.
- To enable students to help others, give of themselves, and enter into caring relationships with others
- To assist students to see the relevance of the academic subject to the real world
- To enhance the self-esteem and self-confidence of students
- To give students the opportunity to do important and necessary work.
- To increase the civic and citizenship skills of students
- To expose students to societal inadequacies and injustices and empower students to remedy them.
- To develop a richer context for student learning
- To provide cross-cultural experiences for students
- To better prepare students for their careers/continuing education
- To foster a re-affirmation of students’ career choices
- To give students greater responsibility for their learning
- To help students know how to get things done
- To impact local issues and local needs

## **NHS Service-Learning Requirements:**

- Service activities should be of sustained or significant duration. The project should be unified and not just a bunch of individual unrelated things put together.
- A total of 20 hours of community service is required for every NHS member. At least 15 of those hours must come from the Service Learning Project. The other five hours can come from activities of your choice.
- You are expected to carry out service projects of genuine benefit to the community and are encouraged to take on meaningful activities with the aid of teachers or community group leaders.
- Remember... you will be asked, in writing, to reflect seriously on what you have experienced and learned through your service project!
- Complete a Service Learning Proposal Form (due October 16)
- Complete a Final Evaluation Form
- Failure to complete a service-learning project will result in dismissal from the National Honor Society.

## **Ideas of Service Learning Projects**

- ✓ Wednesday morning tutoring
- ✓ Tutoring one individual for the year (elementary, Cooper or Langley)
- ✓ Kindergarten buddy at Forestville Elementary – teaching kids to read
- ✓ Planning a 5K run or some community wide event
- ✓ Beautifying a neighborhood
- ✓ Feeding the homeless or soup kitchens
- ✓ Planning and implementing a drive for a charity

**If you have any questions at all, please contact one of the NHS officers or Ms. Cohen in rm. 219 or at [Allison.cohen@fcps.edu](mailto:Allison.cohen@fcps.edu)**

# NHS Service-Learning Proposal Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I. What is your service project idea?

A. Location of project?

B. Task(s) you will be in charge of?

C. Number of hours that you will be performing service (both weekly and overall)?

D. Tentative date of project?

E. Will volunteers be needed from the Langley chapter of NHS?

F. Name of Supervisor/Coordinator:

G. What styles of guidance/supervision will you need during the project's duration? How will consistent and effective communication and/or supervision be maintained?

II. General description of project:

III. What learning and/or experience do you hope to gain from this project? In other words, what do you hope to gain personally; what impact do you hope to have as a result of your service?

NHS Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Service Supervisor/Coordinator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

NHS Sponsor/Advisor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Final Evaluation Form

*This form is to be completed only after the completion of your community service project.*

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Type a fully developed paragraph addressing each of the following questions. Please answer honestly and truthfully.

1. Describe the community service you performed throughout the year.
2. What do you believe was your strongest contribution in the service you performed?
3. Did you willingly accept responsibility and seek opportunities to take action and challenge yourself? Why or why not?
4. What problems did you encounter during your service project?
5. Who benefited from your service and how?
6. What did you learn from performing your community service?
7. Would you do this project again? Why or why not?
8. General Comments, if any: