



What is Service-Learning?

The information below can be found on www.nylc.org

WORKING DEFINITION OF SERVICE-LEARNING

Cleaning up a river is **service**.

Sitting in a science classroom, looking at water samples under a microscope is **learning**.

Students taking samples from local water sources, analyzing the samples, documenting the results and presenting scientific findings to a local pollution control agency is **service-learning**.

COMPONENTS

- ✦ student leadership
- ✦ genuine community need
- ✦ school/community partnerships preparation
- ✦ reflection, recognition
- ✦ clear connections to curricular learning objectives

CRITERIA FOR SERVICE-LEARNING

Service-Learning is a teaching and learning strategy through which young people learn and develop by designing, organizing and participating in meaningful service experiences:

- ✦ That meet actual community needs;
- ✦ That are coordinated in collaboration with the school and community;
- ✦ That are integrated into the students' academic curriculum;
- ✦ That provide structured time for thinking, writing and talking about what is seen and done in the service-learning process;
- ✦ That enhance what is taught in the classroom by providing opportunities for students to apply new academic knowledge and skills in real life situations in their own communities; and
- ✦ That help to foster the development of a sense of caring for others.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

The essential components of the effective service-learning model are:

- ✦ Preparation,
- ✦ Service,
- ✦ Reflection/evaluation, and
- ✦ Celebration/recognition.

FROM THE
YOUTH SERVICE
AMERICA
TOOLBOX