

Service and Community Based Learning Tip Sheet

Student Preparation

Effective service/community based learning prepares students for all aspects of their service experience, including understanding the roles of participants, skills and information required, safety precautions, and people with whom they will be working.

Student preparation consists of learning activities, orientation, training, and analysis prior to and throughout the service experience. Spending time preparing helps move the project from community service to service-learning.

To prepare for their experience, students can...

- Participate in a special training or orientation
- Read relevant newspapers, magazines, textbooks, or novels
- Conduct research online, in the community, or in textbooks
- Survey the community
- Interview community members about their ideas and concerns for the community
- Listen to a guest speaker or attend a relevant program
- Plan the project; make a timeline, assign responsibilities, gather materials, create a budget, and generate funds
- Recruit others to help, including peers and community members
- Develop a public relations campaign