

SERVICE LEARNING GUIDE

A Guide for Volunteers

WHAT IS SERVICE LEARNING?

- Service Learning connects meaningful service, schoolwork, personal growth, and civic responsibility. It is more than just volunteering; it fuses your academic coursework with a specific community problem.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

- To help you get started, Pinellas County recommends seven steps to have a positive and successful Service Learning experience.

STEP 1: How do you want to help your community? What segment of your community do you want to make a lasting impact on?

STEP 2: Find an agency that matches the issue you care about.

STEP 3: Call the contact person listed for the agency you want to work with and tell them you want to complete a Service Learning project there.

STEP 4: Ask questions!

- **What does the organization do?**
- **Where is it located?**
- **Where will I be volunteering?**
- **Are the hours flexible enough so I can complete my project?**
- **Can you mail me a volunteer description and a brochure about the agency?**
- **Are there any age qualifications to volunteer?**

STEP 5: Arrange a time to meet the volunteer coordinator at the agency.

STEP 6: Have FUN! Commit to your project and keep it!

STEP 7: Get everything signed and keep copies for your records.



Things To Think About

BEFORE YOU GET STARTED:

- How much time do you have each week to volunteer at the agency?
- How will you get to the place where you will be volunteering?
- What time of the day do you want to volunteer
- How long can you commit for?
- Is there anything you don't want to or would be afraid to do?

AFTER YOU HAVE STARTED:

- Have you been keeping track of your hours?
- Is your paperwork complete and up-to-date?
- What are you learning as a result of your volunteer time?
- Is there another volunteer opportunity in the agency that you would like to try?

IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED:

- Nursing homes
- Homeless shelters
- Food pantries
- Soup kitchens
- Parks/playgrounds
- Museums
- Community centers
- Hospitals
- Churches
- Senior centers
- Aquariums
- Libraries
- Teachers
- Schools
- Cities