

SERVICE LEARNING / VOLUNTEERISM

SERVICE LEARNING offers an intensive learning experience for student volunteers in which they can “try on” various adult roles while providing vital services to the community. It is a program that demands responsibility and commitment, and it challenges students to participate actively in, and contribute to, the welfare of the community.

DURING THE SERVICE LEARNING, the student focuses on a need in their community. These experiences usually consist of 50-100 hours. Students receive academic credit, and learning objectives are established and agreed upon by the student, community supervisor and the teacher. Students will learn about the value of service. This experience will help the students grow: to see relationships between prior experiences and future action and to see how a single experience relates to a broader context. With guidance, the students should see the effects of poverty and true human need on society and understand the impact of their service.

THE STUDENT WILL...

- Meet** performance and attendance criteria set by the school and the community agency.
- Complete** required assignments.
- Contact** the employer confirming service learning times, location, etc.
- Obtain** parental / staff permission to participate. Arrange transportation to arrive and depart as scheduled.
- Dress** appropriately for the community site.
- Arrive** and depart as scheduled.
- Notify** the community supervisor of absences in advance.

THE EMPLOYER WILL...

- Serve** as host and identify the participating community site supervisor.
- Conduct** an interview with the student to confirm the service learning agreement.
- Discuss** education and training needed to perform within this occupational area.
- Answer** student questions.
- Call** the supervising teacher if problems arise with the service learning assignment.
- Prepare** student evaluations as requested.
- Provide** meaningful tasks for the student to perform.

Liability Exposure: Exposure to liability at the work site should be viewed in the same way you would for visitors who spend time in your facility.

HELPFUL HINTS

- _ Be very detailed when developing the training plan and review this plan regularly throughout the assignment to verify that all parties are meeting expectations.
- _ Gather organization brochures and any other appropriate information to distribute to the student.
- _ Arrange for student work space, if applicable.
- _ Arrange for student parking, if applicable.
- _ Notify appropriate co-workers and departments, so they are aware of the student's assigned responsibilities.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Students will have limited backgrounds about the job they are performing and will have questions for you in order to fully understand the requirements of your position. Here is a list of possible questions you may be asked.

- _ What do you do on a typical day?
- _ What kinds of decisions/problems are part of your job?
- _ What training and/or education are required for the job?
- _ Is any type of prior work experience recommended?
- _ What work experiences did you have before you entered this occupation? Which of these have been most helpful?
- _ What is the best way to enter this occupation?
- _ What other jobs can you get with this same background?
- _ What is it like to work at your company?
- _ What do you like most about your job? Least?
- _ Do you expect to be doing this kind of work in five years?
- _ What are the biggest challenges you face in your job?
- _ What is the future outlook for careers in this area? What changes are occurring?