



Oklahoma City Community College's Student Life Service-Learning Center is eager to create partnerships with community organizations. If your agency chooses to partner with OCCC, students and faculty may work with you to complete service related to their academic goals.

### What do students think about service-learning?

"Doing the volunteering and student service-learning project was a good way for me to learn to become a better leader. It also helped me understand more completely what we have been discussing in class. I recommend volunteering for everyone."

"During this experience I realized just how good it feels to volunteer and help the community. I plan to volunteer more because I enjoyed the experience more than I expected."

"My views as well as opinions have definitely changed. Now I see what volunteer work really means."

"I must be honest; I was resentful in the beginning for having to crowd 10 more hours into my already full plate. However, when I saw what this organization is doing I felt somewhat embarrassed for only giving ten hours of service."



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# Be the Change...

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## partner agency service-learning guide



Service-Learning  
Oklahoma City Community College



### What is service-learning?

*“Service-learning means a method under which students learn and develop through thoughtfully-organized service that: is conducted in and meets the needs of a community and is coordinated with an institution of higher education, and with the community; helps foster civic responsibility; is integrated into and enhances the academic curriculum of the students enrolled; and includes structured time for students to reflect on the service experience.” (American Association for Higher Education)*

### Why should my agency participate?

- Agencies that partner with the OCCC Student Life Service-Learning Center have access to hundreds of OCCC student volunteers.
- Faculty can select your agency as a service site where students must complete service as an educational component of their course.
- Service-Learning students are much more committed to service and are more likely to continue serving after they complete course requirements.
- Agencies are included in the service directory available to all interested students. They are also eligible to participate in Service Days.

### What are the responsibilities of community partner agencies?

- Agencies agree to provide students with appropriate tasks that match their learning objectives and desired outcomes.
- Agencies provide appropriate training, orientation and feedback.
- Agencies verify completed service hours on student timesheets and notify the Service-Learning Center of any concerns or problems.
- Agencies participate in periodic evaluation surveys to strengthen their relationship with Oklahoma City Community College.



### What are the Student Life Service-Learning Center's responsibilities?

- OCCC acts as chief liaison between the college and community agencies.
- OCCC provides students with information about service-learning objectives, agencies and opportunities.
- OCCC provides partner agencies with guidelines for working with service-learning students and volunteers.

### What are OCCC students' responsibilities?

Students generally complete service-learning activities just as they would complete any other assignment. Faculty members decide time, place, manner and amount of service required. If selected by a faculty member, the partner agency will receive additional information about the course learning objectives. Students serve according to agency requirements and observe the confidentiality of agencies.

### What else do I need to know?

- Partnership does not guarantee that your agency will receive volunteers. Faculty choose the agencies that best reflect their learning objectives.
- Partnership is not a contract. Agencies can update information or withdraw from the program at any time.
- Students are responsible for their own actions and personal liability. Legally, they should be treated like any other volunteer.

