



THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE-LEARNING

How to Become an Official Community Partner:

- 1) **Meet with our Community Collaboration Coordinator:** Call (909)869-4269 to make an appointment.
- 2) **Tell us about your organization and its needs:** The more we know about your organization, the more likely it will be that we will be able to match you with the appropriate faculty member and course.
- 3) **Complete the service-learning agreement and/or the VolunteerBASE agreement:** These agreements help protect all parties involved by informing everyone of their rights and responsibilities ahead of time. Samples of the agreements are available on our website at <http://academic.csupomona.edu/ccsl/partnerships/>
- 4) **Be patient:** The best partnerships and projects take time to develop. You may not be placed with a faculty member immediately because service-learning requires that the activities that students do connect directly with the outcomes of a specific course. The best service-learning projects are often planned months in advance. However, once the connection is made, faculty often develop long-lasting partnerships with community agencies that get richer over time. If you signed the VolunteerBASE agreement, we can also connect you with students who are seeking extracurricular volunteer opportunities.
- 5) **Be visible on the campus:** Participate in activities held at Cal Poly Pomona to gain exposure for your organization and to network with faculty, staff and students on the campus. Our volunteer fair, held each Spring, is one prime example.
- 6) **Meet with faculty:** A faculty member may contact you directly from our listing of partners or you may receive a call from our office. You may also encounter potential faculty to partner with at our annual Campus-Community Mixer held each Spring. When you meet with the faculty member, they will tell you about their course and its associated learning outcomes while you tell them about the needs of your organization. Together you will figure out how these two goals intersect and how our students can learn-by-doing at your site.
- 7) **Let us help you:** Need assistance with any step of this process? We're available to help – just ask.

Interested in helping us transform education by becoming a Community Partner?

Visit our website at <http://academic.csupomona.edu/ccsl> or call us at 909-869-4269

Center for Community Service-Learning, CPP, Building 1 - Room 113, 3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA 91768

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Service-Learning: Frequently Asked Questions

1) **What exactly is service-learning?**

Service-learning is a way of using Cal Poly's "learn-by-doing" philosophy to make a difference in the world around us.

2) **What is the difference between service-learning and volunteering?**

Volunteering is:

- Independent of academic courses
- Not necessarily limited in duration
- Less limited in terms of the type of service activity available to volunteers
- Powered by volunteers bringing varied skill sets and levels of ability to the project

Service-Learning is:

- Connected to academic course outcomes
- Limited to length of academic quarter
- Limited to activities related to course content
- Staffed by students bringing specific knowledge and skills learned in class to the service project

Interested in having volunteers or service-learning students at your site? See the reverse side of this handout for more information.

3) **What is the role of community partners in service-learning?**

Community partners are co-educators, sharing their expertise with students to provide them with real-world knowledge while receiving skilled assistance from those students to achieve the goals of their organization.

4) **Why is Service-Learning Beneficial to YOU?**

- S-L provides recognition of your expertise
- S-L can result in ongoing partnerships with faculty
- S-L can help address your organization's long range goals
- S-L provide you with additional staff, resources, and materials

5) **What do partners have to say about their experiences?**

"A win-win program. The students learn, we learn and we also get the benefit of an additional staff member helping out with projects with no extra costs added to our budget."

-- *Jerrie Dean, Volunteer Coordinator, American Red Cross Blood Services*

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