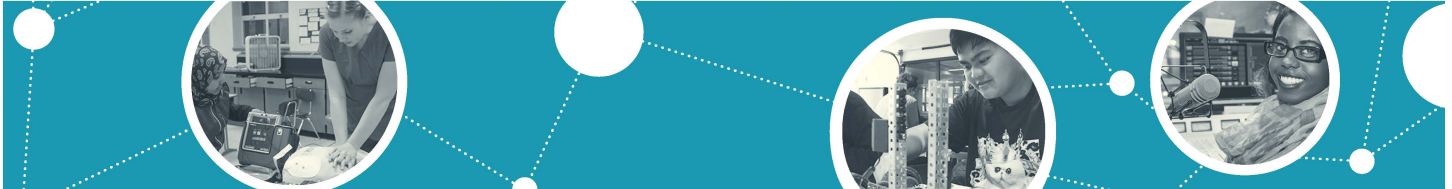




Partner Connect: *Service Learning*



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 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

Career Coordinator/teacher. Students will learn about the value of service, and this experience will help them grow—to see relationships between prior experiences and future action; to see how a single experience relates to a broader context.

WHAT ARE SERVICE LEARNING CAREER RELATED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES?

- Students who participate in service learning projects have identified a community concern, work individually or in teams to find solutions, and gain academic credit for their efforts.
- Service Learning can validate the learning that takes place outside of school and focuses both on the acquisition of skills and knowledge and on leadership development. Learning personal skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and communication is a primary goal of service learning projects.



STUDENT PARTICIPATION

- Meet performance and attendance criteria.
- Complete required assignments.
- Contact the employer confirming service learning times, location, etc.
- Obtain parental/staff permission to participate.
- Arrange transportation to and from the experience.
- Dress appropriately for the community site.
- Arrive and depart as scheduled.
- Notify the community supervisor of absences in advance.
- Complete a PPS CTE CRLE evaluation and required documentation.

EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION

- 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 the occupational area.
- Call the supervising staff member (Career Coordinator or Teacher) if problems arise with the service learning assignment.
- Complete a PPS CTE evaluation of the experience.

LIABILITY EXPOSURE

Liability Exposure at the work site and while the student is in transit is the responsibility of Portland Public Schools if the student is in an unpaid experience. If the student is involved in a paid work experience, the business is responsible for any insurance coverage, including workmen’s compensation.



CAREER
PREPARATION





EMPLOYER BENEFITS

- Employers spark student interest in careers in their industry while showcasing their commitment to furthering the education and development of young people.
- Employers demonstrate to students the importance of developing and honing key skills in CTE and other areas.
- Employers identify possible future workers for their business and their industry.
- Employers strengthen their relationships with students, families, schools, and the local community.

STUDENT BENEFITS

- Students gain experience in a real-world workplace and develop an in-depth understanding of what it's like to work in the employer's industry.
- Students see the value of developing and honing CTE skills so they can succeed in today's rapidly evolving work environments.
- Students have opportunities develop and strengthen soft skills in areas from communications to working in teams.
- Students learn about the rhythms and requirements of the workplace in areas from punctuality and dress to norms and behavior.
- Students learn more about jobs and careers in fields they may be interested in pursuing.
- Students gain valuable experience for college and work resumes, while connecting with possible references and future employers.

MAKING IT EFFECTIVE AND EDUCATIONAL

BEFORE THE SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE:

Coordinate with the Career Coordinator/teacher regarding tour logistics, expectations and unique requirements. Be sure to ask the Career Coordinator/teacher what background knowledge students have about the company or career field. Supplement as needed to ensure a productive and informative tour.

DURING THE SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE:

We/come students with a quick orientation and provide a quick overview of the company and its industry, history and operations, as well as any safety tips they need to know. Discuss how many people work for the company, and provide a quick overview of the various types of jobs they hold, as well as the CTE and "soft " skills they have to apply in those jobs. . Make sure all employees are prepared to talk with students about the following topics:

AFTER THE SERVICE LEARNING EXPERIENCE IS COMPLETE:

Follow up with the Career Coordinator/teacher, determine what went well and what might need to be adjusted in the future. Think about follow up opportunities and how your company might utilize other types of Career Related Learning Experiences to showcase what you do and engage students Complete the PPS CTE evaluation form so we know how the experience went for you.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT ASK A STUDENT WHEN DETERMINING TO ACCEPT THEM FOR A SERVICE LEARNING ASSIGNMENT.

- What school activities do you participate in? Why? Which do you enjoy the most?
- Tell me about some accomplishments you feel good about.
- How would you describe your personality?
- What prompted you to want to participate in a service learning experience?
- What are your favorite/least favorite classes?
- What jobs have you had?
- What are your post-high school plans?
- How do you think this experience might help you with those plans?
- What do you expect to be doing in the next five years? Ten years?

HELPFUL HINTS

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

Learn more at www.pps.net/partnerconnect

Portland Public Schools is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer.