

# Elements of Service Learning

As defined by the National Youth Leadership Council

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## Meaningful Service

- Participants are actively engaged in meaningful and personally relevant service activities.
- Experiences lead to attainable and visible outcomes that are valued by participants and by those being served.

## Youth Voice

- Youth are provided with a strong voice in planning, implementing and evaluating service learning experiences with guidance from adults.
- Experiences promote acquisition of knowledge and skills to enhance youth leadership and decision making.

## Partnerships

- Service learning partnerships are collaborative, mutually beneficial and address community needs. Partners include youth, families, community organizations and/or businesses.

## Reflection

- Service learning incorporates multiple challenging reflection activities that are ongoing and that prompt deep thinking and analysis about oneself and one's relationship to society.

## Link to Curriculum

- Service learning is intentionally used as an instructional strategy to meet clearly articulated learning goals.
- Participants learn how to transfer knowledge and skills from one setting to another.

## Diversity

- Understanding of diversity and mutual respect among all participants is promoted, as well as the development of interpersonal skills in conflict management and group decision making.

## Duration and Intensity

- Service learning has sufficient duration and intensity to address community needs and meet specified outcomes.

## Progress Monitoring

- Participants are engaged in an ongoing process to assess the quality of implementation and progress toward meeting specified goals, and uses results for improvement and sustainability.