

Service learning in Lutheran schools

Preparation for service learning - guidelines

The following guidelines, activities and questions are used with year 9s as they prepare for service learning activities.

- **Make contact:** About one week before your placement, phone the supervisor to introduce yourself and discuss suitable clothing, start and finish times, and thank them for the opportunity etc.
- **The first day:** It may be a good idea to bring morning tea and lunch on the first day until you know what facilities are available.
- **Be punctual:** It is very important that you arrive before your start time so that you are actually ready to start work on time.
- **Absences:** Must be reported as early as possible to the Supervisor at the organization AND to the Service Learning Coordinator at the College.
- **Challenges and concerns:** Your placement may challenge your comfort level, requiring a caring, concerned and compassionate approach and will involve working with people.
- However, if you have real concerns, speak to your Supervisor if you feel comfortable, and if you feel the need, contact the Service Learning Co-ordinator at the College who will be happy to help you.
- **Following instructions:** During your placement you are expected to respond in a positive way to directions from your Supervisor. Display initiative and help where help is needed, not where you would want it to be needed.
- **Responsibility:** Where there are a number of students at one placement, be careful not to spend too much time together, neglecting your responsibility. Socialise only at break times. The College has a relationship with these organizations and opportunities for future students should not be jeopardized.
- **Completing your journal:** Your reflections each day are an important part of your placement. Please do not leave this until you have finished. Your journal is part of your assessment and is to handed in to the appropriate teacher by the date specified.

Service learning in Lutheran schools

Service learning preparation – complete the week before the program begins.

Name: _____

Name of Placement: _____

Type of people in the institution (age, abilities):

What are your expectations of this Program? What did you expect to do, see, experience and learn?

What experience would you like to avoid? What types of things are you hoping will not happen?

What activities will you be involved in?

What attitudes should you have towards your placement service?

What are the reasons for having a service learning program?

How can a week in a new institution, working with different types of people, benefit you personally?

Reflection journal entries

(during the service learning experience)

Name: _____

Name of Placement: _____

Type of people in the institution (age, abilities):

Answer the focus questions for each day and you may wish to use the following questions as prompts or a guide to add further to your reflections.

- What was the best part of the visit for you personally?
- What was the hardest part?
- What did you learn about yourself during your placement?
- What was your strongest feeling during the visit?
- How did people seem to react to you? How did you feel about their reaction?
- Did you find it easy to approach and be with people you met?
- What would you have changed about the format/structure of the placement?
- Was there anything that affected your understanding of Service Learning – any new insights, shifts in your approach etc?
- In what ways did you feel supported/not supported by those you worked with?
- How did you feel about your contributions to the placement?
- Who did you like most/least? Why?
- Was there any resistance to your work by those you worked with?
- How was this expressed? (eg quietness, protest, etc)
- How is trust developing/not developing?
- Were there any moments when you felt powerless or out of control?
- What did you feel most anxious about during your placement? How did you handle this?
- What gifts did you use during your placement?
- Did you have any significant conversations with people either at your placement or about it?

Resource adapted from Rostrevor College in South Australia