

Doing Good

with Federation

Service Learning

3 Easy Steps

Adding an educational element to community service can bring even more meaning to our volunteer work.

This method, called “Service Learning,” emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection while encouraging a heightened sense of community, civic engagement and personal responsibility. We offer the following steps to enhance your volunteer experience through reflections before, during and after your community service.



1. Framing Questions

Discuss these questions before your volunteer service:

- ♥ What do we know about this organization and the service we will do?
- ♥ What is one thing we hope to learn?
- ♥ What is one thing we are apprehensive about?
- ♥ What are we most excited about?
- ♥ What Jewish values do we think we will see in action or experience today?
- ♥ What stories/examples can we pull from Jewish tradition, our lives and experiences that will help us find a meaningful and personal connection to our volunteer service?

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2. Prepare to be Productive

Get the most out of your volunteer experience with a little preparation on the front end. Keep these tips in mind for a productive experience:

- ♥ Review the organization's website before you go.
- ♥ Know the name of the contact person who scheduled your service and the person you were told to ask for when you arrive.
- ♥ Arrive on time—if not a few minutes early—by preparing good directions beforehand.
- ♥ Bring with you any required forms already completed.
- ♥ Dress appropriately for your assignment.
- ♥ Be flexible and take initiative as needed.
- ♥ Set the right tone with a smile.



3. Reflect & Discuss

Use these questions to start a dialogue as you reflect about your service experience:

- ♥ Did we contribute to a greater good? How?
- ♥ How did performing service make us feel?
- ♥ What Jewish values did we act on or see? Were there any we did not expect?
- ♥ What surprised us today? Are there things we see/understand differently now?
- ♥ What positive elements and challenges will we remember about this service?
- ♥ If we were to continue this type of service in the future, could we make an even larger impact? Would it be with the same organization/project or with something different?
- ♥ Do we have a different perspective on our community or our responsibility to it?
- ♥ Did our service remind us of any Jewish stories from our family or heritage?

For more volunteer opportunities about service learning and other Jewish educational resources, visit:

Jconnect.org/DoGood

The Jewish Federation **MAKE IT YOURS**