

# Service Learning Sign-Up Preparation

"We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say, 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those people who see the need and respond. Those people are my heroes." –Mr. Rogers

Service learning (SL) comprises over 40% of your grade in INST 150! You will sign up for a regular service site in your next INST 150 class session. **To be ready you will need to:**

- **Carefully read** the SL information on Brightspace (Overview, Introduction, and FAQs). Log on to GetConnected, our online portal, via the link from your TA right away to learn all about our sites! Plan to attend the REQUIRED Service Learning Fair on Tuesday, September 4. You will sign up for a site in class on Wednesday or Thursday, September 5 or 6; if you miss class or do not sign up then, the chances of getting one of your top service learning options is much lower. You will find out your official site in class September 11 or 12.
- **Commuters and students with cars on campus should pick an Own Hours site.** Pick from the options provided or find a site near home and request approval from Megan Acedo, Coordinator of Student Ministries & Service Learning, to serve there. Eastern provides many van options but needs about 60 students to use their own transportation.
  - Eastern provides one \$35 gas card to students who provide their own transportation (Own Hours). Drivers should feel free to request the use of gas cards given to others who are getting a ride to SL in their car. So if you have a car and carpool with two other students to the same Own Hours site, you would have \$105 in gas money.
  - Before sign ups, organize rides with other INST 150 students who have similar schedules (classmates or roommates.)
  - **Do not sign up for the Own Hours option if you have no transportation.**
  - *How will \$35 gas cards be distributed?* Once you have set up your hours and served at your assigned Own Hours site at least once, bring a printout of your Volunteer Resume from Get Connected to Megan Acedo in Walton 1A for your gas card by the end of the semester. **Once you have received a gas card, you will not be permitted to change to a van site.**
- Habitat for Humanity, Prison Ministry, and YACHT (Youth Against Complacency and Homelessness Today) Club are all Eastern University campus ministries that serve as service learning sites. You can learn more about them at the Welcome Back Bash (August 31) or the Service Learning Fair (September 4).
- Students in Social Work 105 and EDU 200: check with your professor to see which service learning sites can also count for that class. Then ask your INST 150 professor whether you can count the same 20 hours of service for both classes.
- **For sign ups,** bring to class this sheet, **all your schedules (academic, athletic, work, etc),** and time organizers. You will struggle to sign up if you don't know when you are free!

- **Service Learning Kick-Off: Urban Promise, Camden, NJ is 7:55am-2:00pm, Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> (rain or shine). Attendance is mandatory** and will count for four hours of service! If you have an unavoidable conflict, get permission from your TA or professor to miss it. Winter and spring athletes are required to be there. Fall athletes who only have a practice that day should plan to attend. Please talk with your coach.
  - Wear clothes you can work in and that can get painted/dirty. Eastern gear is strongly encouraged! Please wear appropriate, closed-toe footwear (tennis shoes, etc.). **Additionally, please make sure all your clothing choices are appropriate for representing Eastern University to the community at large.**
  - Dining Commons will open at 7:30am for continental breakfast (strongly encouraged!!) and we will meet in the upper McInnis lot at 7:55am SHARP! Lunch will be provided in Camden before you return.
  
- SL runs from **Monday, September 17** until **Saturday, December 8**. Also, there is no SL on Eastern's breaks: **Saturday, September 29 – Tuesday, October 2 (Fall Free Days) and Wednesday, November 21-Sunday, November 25 (Thanksgiving Break)**. Your site may start later or have special holidays listed in the site descriptions online. Always check with the site for closed dates and about weather-related closures.
  
- **CLEARANCES:** Some sites require both a child abuse clearance and a criminal background check. If you are assigned to one of those sites, you will be given instructions for completing those clearances online in class on September 12 or 13. The child abuse clearance and state criminal background check for the purpose of volunteering with children are at no cost.
  - If you're from out of state and serving with children you will also have to get a Federal FBI Criminal History at a cost of \$25.75. Eastern will reimburse \$10 of that. Your TA will have instructions on how to obtain your FBI Criminal History and get reimbursed after service learning starts.
  - If you have lived in Pennsylvania for the past 10 years you can sign an affirmation exempting you from the above Federal FBI Criminal History requirement ONLY.
  
- **Athletes:** If you have served **12-20 approved** service learning hours over the summer, do not sign up for a site in class, but you must turn in your Verification of Hours form to your TA to be exempted from signing up. You will receive a grade based on the number of hours you have completed! Those with 12-19 hours served can work to complete their hours at their pre-approved site over Fall Free Days or Thanksgiving Break.
- **Athletes who served less than 12 hours must register for service learning in class.**
  
- **Online Service Learning information:**
  - Get Connected online portal for Service Learning (link from your TA)
  - [Office of Faith & Practice /Service Learning](#) If you lose this info sheet, you can download another there.
  
- Service learning is directed through of the Office of Faith & Practice, Walton 1A, near the Dining Commons and Prayer Chapel. Contact Megan D. Acedo, *Coordinator of Student Ministries & Service Learning*, with any questions at (610) 341-1830 or [macedo@eastern.edu](mailto:macedo@eastern.edu).