What is involved?

Preparation
- Review list of Service-Learning classes at http://servicelarning.boisestate.edu (click “St. Courses”). Evaluate whether your needs relate to the learning goals of a class.
- Contact St. staff to discuss partnership details, expectations, coordination, timelines, and agreements. Call 426-3772.
- Register your agency on the St. website and post your project description.

Action
- Meet with your faculty partner to discuss the project parameters and learning goals.
- Orient and supervise the students to guide their learning experience. Help them learn about your agency, community issues, safety issues, and the connection with their class.
- Check-in with students every other week to help them process their experiences.

Evaluation & Celebration
- Evaluate your students via the St. website.
- Contact the St. staff and faculty to suggest how they can be more helpful to you and your agency.
- Recognize the service-learners’ efforts, as well as the efforts of those at your agency who helped the students learn.
- Join students at campus events that highlight their work with your agency.

Agency and the St.
- SAFE (Sexually Abused, Family Endangered) program needs help setting up an office, meeting and database. They need volunteer help to do computer tasks, clerical, and helping people set up their lives.
- Idaho Foodbank needs help with administrative duties, planning, and outreach.
- St. Mark’s “Senior Partner” program benefits from volunteer tutors.

Boise State University
Service-Learning
For the Community

“I am in the world to change the world.”
- Katie Kolowitz

What is Service-Learning?

Service-Learning (SL) is a teaching strategy that applies course concepts to academically-based community service. Service-Learning students are required to serve 10-45 hours per semester on a course-related issue.

Service-Learners are students, not volunteers.
Often their service is a required part of a class. Students have specific learning objectives for their service experience.

Examples:
- Headstart programs invite Child Psychology students to tutor children at their center.
- Idaho State Veteran’s Home utilizes History and Nursing students as companions for elderly residents.

Agency Benefits:
- Gain a continuous volunteer pool
- Build relationships with potential employees
- Tap into student idealism and enthusiasm
- Grow your base of future community support

“Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn.”
- Benjamin Franklin

Service-Learning Agencies Provide:
- An orientation to the organization and clients
- Service activities that are enriching and meaningful
- Access to site supervisor or knowledgeable staff member
- Service connected to the class
- Direct contact with client populations, when possible
- Evaluations of student participation and St. partnership

Agency Tips for Success:
- Be thorough in describing your projects
- Attend an on-campus St. orientation and an agency/faculty luncheon
- Develop relationships with faculty partners
- Be aware of students’ expertise levels
- Be selective; it’s OK to refer students back to the St. office
- Be flexible; try to work with students’ schedules

Boise State Service-Learning Staff Provide:
- Site visits and consultations
- Guidelines and checklists
- Opportunities to connect with faculty
- Student support in classroom and on-site
- On-going troubleshooting
- Campus liaison
- Tell us what you need and we will help

Agencies Say...
- “I am a firm believer in Service-Learning...giving students “hands-on” experience is so beneficial to their personal and professional growth.”
  - Marcia White, Parish Ministry Coordinator, Catholic Charities

“Each semester I see things happen that makes your appreciation grow for the Service-Learning Program, things that makes your heart want to stop and take a picture. I see lives change – residents, students, staff, and even family members—all for the better.”
- Sherrills, Volunteer Coordinator for Boise Samaritan Village

Interested? Contact Us!
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