

# Environmental Science Service Learning In the Online Class



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•J-14 Farm and Ranch Urban Gardening

Service Learning



Civic Engagement

# What is Service Learning, exactly?

**Curriculum-based learning meeting defined community needs.**

**There needs to be learning goals for the student, service goals for the community, and an active reflection on the experience.**

## **Difference between volunteering and service learning:**

**Volunteering** → student altruism/charity...  
community benefits

**Community Service** → students focus on cause and benefit to  
recipient... more structure toward community benefit

**Internships** → students focus on hands-on learning... more  
structure toward student benefit.

**SERVICE LEARNING** → student curriculum and community  
need are met...both student and community benefit

# Fitting Service Learning into a curriculum...online.



1. Traditional is 20 hours minimum.  
Online, I ask for **5 – 8 hours**

## 2. Choose a service learning opportunity

### Service Learning Opportunities

This is a list of suggested **opportunities** based upon **environmental issues** that you should focus your background research on. Be aware that they may not have opportunities during your (or semester) time frame. Student recommendations are always welcome, but as always, your instructor needs to evaluate the program and approve of the project.

**Make sure that once you have your date with the community agency, you begin your research on the environmental issue/course objective focus, and complete the necessary forms from the Service Learning Department at JCCC. Then write and submit your proposal.**

Your proposal will be evaluated and you are allowed to revise it so that your final reflection paper has all the elements needed for a successful experience!

**Getting Kids back into Nature:** *great for people interested in education degrees and want practice teaching!*

**Course Objective Focus:**

*I. Introduction and Historical Concerns*

*B. Trace the development of attitudes toward natural resources in the United States.*

*IV: Resources*

*F. Public Lands*

*3. Describe ecosystems as natural resources and as natural capital.*

*VI. Society*

*E. Describe components of an environmental ethic*

- **Girl Scouts / Boy Scouts Badges and Skills Program:** designs nature experiences that connect to the badges and skills they want to obtain. **Jenny Doty, the Park Naturalist at [jdoty@ci.lenexa.ks.us](mailto:jdoty@ci.lenexa.ks.us) or 913/541-0209.**
- **Young Explorers Class:** Classes offered on one Monday and one Friday each month from 9-11 a.m. (limited space for volunteers) for children 3 – 6 years old. **Jenny Doty, the Park Naturalist at [jdoty@ci.lenexa.ks.us](mailto:jdoty@ci.lenexa.ks.us) or 913/541-0209.**

3. Submit a **proposal** which includes **researched background information** on the environmental issue. Then **revise**.

### Service Learning Project Proposal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Write a few paragraphs describing your anticipated service learning project. You will use this as the core of your reflection paper. I will review it and offer suggestions for revision if you want to gain more points on the proposal grade. Be sure to include the following:

- The **community agency** that you will be working with, their email and phone contact information, and name of contact person. (10%)
- The **environmental issue/course objectives** that you are offering your services to and how that matches with the community agency. Do NOT only write information about the agency, although that is okay to include. The background information should be researched from primary or secondary sources, paraphrased (with in-text citations), and detailed on the **local issue** (not the community agency). Be sure that it is properly cited and includes the references. Please use more than one reference! (60%)
- What you think might happen during the project and what you are looking forward to or are nervous about. **A set of five questions** that you can ask the community agency regarding the environmental issue and how they work to resolve it. (30%)

# At JCCC, we have a Community Based Learning Office



Environmental Science - BIOL-130-351 (11019.201401)

[Calendar](#) | [Content](#) | [Discussions](#) | [Dropbox](#) | [Quizzes](#) | [Grades](#) | [User Progress](#) | [Classlist](#) | [Edit Course](#)

Search Topics



## Service Learning Folder ▾

Print Settings

Overview / Syllabus

Bookmarks

Upcoming Events

1

Table of Contents

36

Welcome - Getting Started Folder

1

Unit One Folder

11

**Service Learning Folder**

6

Dropbox Folder

2

Unit Two Folder

6

According to the Community Based Learning Office:  
913-469-8500 ext 3570 or 3143

*"Students must have an application on file in the Community Based Learning (COM 201) office prior to beginning their service. They must review the guidelines and safety information prior to signing the application. They can get everything they need under How It Works."*

You will need to review the guidelines and contact Mary Smith but use the Service Learning Opportunities by Issue here in this folder to choose your project. Do not use the list provided by the CBL Office.

Therefore, you must download the required forms here or from their website: <http://www.jccc.edu/servicelearning/required-forms.html>

[Service Learning Application](#)

[Confirmation of Placement](#)

[Hours/Verification and Evaluation](#)

# What my students "see" in D2L:

My Home > Environmental Science - ... Judith Follo

Biomes Project Folder

Unit Three Folder 1

Unit Four Folder 1

40 % 2 of 5 topics complete

- Service Learning Project Description ✓
- Service Learning Opportunities by Issue •
- MLA\_Handout\_Revise •
- Final Reflection Paper Rubric ✓

Dropbox Folder

Please download this [Service Learning Proposal](#), write your plan including research on the environmental issue with proper citations and references in MLA/APA or footnoted format.

If you are not familiar with MLA or APA style, use this link to the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) . Or visit the [JCCC Online Writing Lab](#) which will provide online writing feedback at any stage of your paper. Remember that this is technical writing - writing a paper with research that must be cited and referenced. Please do not plagiarize and do not use quotes for researched information.

Service Learning Proposal Dropbox •

Due Jan 24, 2014 9:00 AM Starts Jan 13, 2014 12:00 AM



# 4. Complete the Service Commitment!



•Yixing, China  
Water Quality  
Project

•Young  
Explorers  
Class at  
City of  
Lenexa

•Overland Park  
Recycling Center



• Overland Park  
Arboretum

•Heartland  
Habitat for  
Humanity –  
ReStore



•City of Lenexa,  
Stream Clean-up

# 5. Write the **reflection** paper with **photos** and revised **background research**.



Service Learning Reflection Paper Rubric

Criteria	Achievement Level					
	Achievement Level 1 (0%)	Achievement Level 2 (60%)	Achievement Level 3 (70%)	Achievement Level 4 (80%)	Achievement Level 5 (90%)	Achievement Level 6 (100%)
<b>Background information (properly cited and including references) on the local issue NOT just the community agency. Photos are imbedded or included. (10 points)</b>  (50% Weighting)	0 percent no submission	35 percent The background information on the environmental issue that you offered your services to and why is present but not written at the college level. Background information is missing. Photos may or may not be present.	35 percent Background information is limited. If present at all, and there are no citations. Photos may or may not be attached or imbedded.	40 percent Background information is present but not thorough. Focuses only on the community agency. Citations are not present. And/Or photos are not included.	45 percent Background information on the environmental issue is written in full sentences and with proper grammar and spelling. Background information on the environmental issue is present and source is acknowledged but citation is not properly written OR photos are missing.	50 percent Background information on the environmental issue is written in full sentences and with proper grammar and spelling. The background information is thorough and properly cited with parenthetical citations or footnotes. Photos are imbedded or attached.
<b>Your personal reflection on your experience as well as a short narrative of your day of service. (40% Weighting)</b>	0 percent no submission	24 percent What happened before, during, and after your experience is written in but not in full sentences with syntax, grammar, and spelling well	25 percent What happened before, during, and after your experience is written in full sentences but syntax, grammar, and spelling are not at the	32 percent What happened before, during, and after your experience is written in full sentences but syntax, grammar, and/or spelling is not at the	36 percent What happened before, during, and after your experience is written in full sentences with good syntax, grammar, and spelling at the	40 percent What happened before, during, and after your experience is written in full sentences with good syntax, grammar, and spelling at the

### Service Learning Project

The typical person produces about 4.5 pounds of trash a day, about three thousand pounds a year. The good news is that 2,250 pounds of this waste is recyclable; the bad news is that currently recycled ("Recycling Stats" 2). This was a staggering statistic to me, and why I choose to do my service-learning project with an emphasis in recycling and composting. For my service-learning project I chose to work with Bridging the Gap and help with their recycling and composting efforts at Boulevardia. Boulevardia was an event down in the west bottoms of Kansas City. This was the very first year it was put on, and is expected to be an annual festival here in Kansas City. The group that I volunteered with at this event, Bridging the Gap, was trying to help this be a "green" event.

Boulevardia was trying to have a "green" event by having as little paper as possible with a phone app for a map and information, and encouraged vendors to use compostable products. However they did expect to have lots of food waste and plastic waste as well due to the food trucks and beverage vendors. The EPA reported that in 2012 14.5 percent of the municipal solid waste was food waste making it one of the top three contributors to our municipal solid waste ("Municipal Solid Waste" 1). Another source reported that if we were to compost our food scraps, and annual 21.5 million tons, instead of sending them to the dump the greenhouse gas emissions would be the equivalent of taking over two

I volunteered at the Overland Park Recycling Center. I chose recycling because it is a good approach to solve many environmental problems. Recycling is also something that everyone can be a part of. Recycling can be done by anyone, who buys any kind of recyclable materials. Recyclable materials include: paper, glass, plastic, food scraps, batteries, and metal; just to name a few (Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.). These are materials everyone buys.

Recycling helps reduce landfill wastes. Landfills are holes in the ground that serve as a dumping ground for trash. Landfills are filled with trash, and then covered with dirt to seal. Most of these landfills are not biodegradable, and can take centuries to decompose. Some of the most efficient landfills have been designed to hold more trash, and emit less gasses; they are a threat to the environment (Environmental Protection Agency, n.d.).

Recycling helps reduce the amount of waste that is sent to landfills. Recycled items tend to use less energy to produce than using new wood. Not to mention, recycling paper cuts down the use of trees to produce paper. This helps the

## Sample Reflection Papers:

*"Having this experience has stirred a drive in me that I did not know was so strong. I now feel compelled to volunteer more, involve myself, donate time and money and teach my young children the importance of volunteering in our community to better our current environmental situation and the future environment for them and even their children."*

*Sarah- Friends of Trees in Portland, OR*



“My favorite part of the day was when a mother asked if she could take my picture ...she wanted {it} ...so she could again talk to her children about recycling and composting. It was at this moment that I realized that my presence and job at this event made an impact not only on the planet, but on people as well.”

Jennifer - Summer Boulevardia Event -2014



*"I am thankful for this class and this project for opening my eyes to see a bigger world than me, and for showing me how simple it is to make a difference in our environment."*

*Maggie – Recycling Center in Overland Park, KS*

Questions?

Comments?

How do you plan to (or already) implement a Service Learning Project into your class?



**Thank you! Contact me at [jfollo@jccc.edu](mailto:jfollo@jccc.edu)**

## Resources and References:

Campus Compact: <http://www.compact.org/>

Furco, Andrew. "Service Learning": A Balanced Approach to Experiential Education". Expanding Boundaries Service and Learning. Washington DC: Corporation for National Service, 1996.

Kansas Campus Compact: <http://www.k-state.edu/ksccl/>