

Service to Careers Project Profile

Overview

This youth voice led curriculum is meant for **middle school aged youth**, and has been developed by OregonASK as a ten week curriculum for out-of-school time programs to create a Service to Careers Club. Clubs choose a community to serve, create a project based on surveyed community needs, and interview a representative from local Workforce Boards to inform the project process. For Oregon's regional **workforce investment boards**, this program capitalizes on youth interest and guides them on a journey of service learning while building career awareness.

Projects can continue beyond the ten weeks, but the curriculum provided supplies the club with interview questions, strategies, and a weekly progression through project development and implementation. Programs who take part in training will have access to:

- Ongoing technical assistance from OregonASK Master Trainers
- Facilitated Connections to Regional Workforce Investment Boards
- Tools & resources developed specifically for documenting the process with youth
- Facilitated webinars with peers working in other communities

Timeline:

- **February 2018:** Programs in Cohort 1 receive training
- **Spring/Summer 2018:** Cohort 1 implements Service to Careers programming
 - Cohort 1 Local demonstration/presentation & collect feedback
- **Summer 2018:** Make adjustments to programming based on feedback
 - Recruit programs for Cohort 2
- **August 24, 2018:** Training for Cohort 2
- **Fall 2018-Winter 2019:** Cohort 2 implements one course of Service to Careers
- **Winter/Spring 2019:**
 - Cohort 2 Local demonstration/presentation & collect feedback
- **Summer 2019:** Recruit & train programs for Cohort 3
- **Fall 2019:** Implementation of Cohort 3 & Feedback from all cohorts

Implementation

- Online training for all new programs:
 - Adult facilitators from each program
 - Two online check-ins for sharing documentation, progress and feedback.
- Key Partners & Organizations
 - Regional Workforce Investment Boards
 - Local Chamber of Commerce
 - Informal & Out-of-School Programs
 - CTE Regional Coordinators
- Key Audiences for 10 week/session Service to Career activities:
 - Middle School Youth
 - High School Youth

Service to Careers Alignment to Employability Skills

Youth who participate in Service Learning projects in this pilot will have the opportunity to develop workforce skills in a number of ways. This youth voice based project creates an organic connection to careers while fostering leadership and communication experience. Youth will brainstorm and implement projects that benefit a community chosen by the youth. They will have an opportunity to share project descriptions with Workforce and other Career experienced partners who will consult on further outreach to those business and industry members that can inform specific projects. Youth will have the opportunity to develop skills in all of the following categories:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1) Adaptability | 6) Empathy |
| 2) Analysis | 7) Entrepreneurial Mindset |
| 3) Collaboration | 8) Resilience |
| 4) Communication | 9) Self-Awareness |
| 5) Digital Fluency | 10) Social Diversity |

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

- **What kind of materials and support is provided for cohort participants?**

In-person training on a quarterly basis will be provided to participating programs, along with a curriculum outlining ten weeks of steps toward implementing service learning projects. Weekly call times will be available for any program who needs support, as well as continuous access to coach trainers.

- **Why are we connecting Service Learning with Workforce?**

We know that there are some essential skills that nearly all employers are looking for in future employees, most of which have nothing to do with the specific knowledge of their business but more about 21st century employability skills. We believe that the structure of service learning allows youth to fully engage with their community while building skills that many do not otherwise have the opportunity to learn or strengthen with positive guidance.

- **Do I need to be knowledgeable in service learning or have industry partners before starting this program?**

No! There is no previous knowledge necessary, facilitators of Service Learning Clubs will have in-person training, coaching opportunities, and access to OregonASK trainers and easy to use materials to support them throughout the project!

- **Is this a STEM specific program?**

This is not a STEM specific program in that it is most important for youth to find a project that best fits their interest. However, since we know that nearly every job or workplace has components of STEM incorporated, the curriculum is created to help guide youth in discovering how STEM is a part of the careers they explore.

- **How do I target and engage underserved youth?**

This project is one part of the work we are doing to better understand how best to serve and engaging youth in Oregon. See more about our findings and recommendations [HERE](#).