

Information for Community Partners

Join us as we make the world a better place!

(credit: Joan Kerley & Mark Godleski)

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Our faculties offer several service-learning courses a semester in which SUNY-ESF students assist the local community. Depending on the project and course requirements, agencies are asked to identify a project that can be completed in one semester, orient the student to your site, fill out an evaluation form to certify the student has completed the required assignments successfully and/or meet with a group of students during the semester to consult about your individual project.

About SUNY-ESF

The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), founded in 1911 and located adjacent to Syracuse University in Central New York, is a small, specialized public college with an enrollment of approximately 1,650 undergraduate and 600 graduate students. The institution's mission is "to advance the knowledge and skills of its students and to promote the leadership necessary for the stewardship of both the natural and designed environments." Students have the opportunity to study disciplines primarily grounded in the sciences including: Chemistry, Environmental and Forest Biology, Forest and Natural Resources Management, Landscape Architecture, Paper and Bioprocess Engineering, Environmental Studies, Environmental Science, Sustainable Construction Management and Engineering, Environmental Resources Engineering.

What types of projects are done?

ESF service-learning projects are limited only by the interests and needs of the community as they relate to the subject matters we teach. While below we provide a sample of projects that have been completed in the past, you are encouraged to take a look at the actual [course listing](#) for a better understanding of what types of projects are done.

Previous projects have included:

- Working with after-school programs on science-based activities

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- Devising bio-retention basins for treating storm water runoff in urban Syracuse environments
- Constructing display materials for Onondaga county museums
- Mapping hiking trails for local parks
- Designing recreational uses for local waterfront areas
- Tutoring youth weekly at local schools
- Assisting a local township on land utilization projects
- Providing nature programs for inner city youth

What does service-learning ask of me?

(Adapted from <http://www.marquette.edu/service/communitypartner/whatdoesslask.html>)

- **You, or someone you designate, will be site coordinator or “client” in the collaboration with ESF’s Service-Learning Initiative.** The site coordinator is your organization's liaison with the Program. This person must be informed about the goals of the collaboration and generally assumes responsibility for the points that follow.
- **Provide course-related service experiences.** Our faculty will work with you in linking the service needs of your organization with course objectives.
- At the beginning of each semester, **give a site orientation, and basic training** information to Service-Learners who will be working with you.
- Provide basic **supervision** to Service-Learners.
- **Be accessible** to answer students' questions, make referrals, or provide information if they seek your help in their learning process.
- **Keep current with Service-Learning.** Our faculty will make contact with the site coordinator throughout the semester, to see how things are going, and if there are any questions, problems or agency changes that impact the collaboration. We want to maintain strong, open communication with you in order to keep current with your needs and address any issues that may arise.

Principles of Good Community Campus Partnerships

(From “Principles of Good Community Campus Partnerships” developed by Community-campus Partnerships for Health, San Francisco, CA)

1. Partnerships have agreed upon mission, values, goals, and measurable outcomes for the partnership.

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2. The relationship between partners is characterized by mutual trust, respect, genuineness and commitment.
3. The partnership builds upon identified strengths and assets, but also addresses areas that need improvement.
4. The partnership balances power among partners and enables resources among partners to be shared.
5. There is a clear, open and accessible communication between partners, making it an on-going priority to listen to each need, develop a common language, and validate/clarify the meaning of terms.
6. Roles, norms, and processes for the partnership are established with the input and agreement of all partners.
7. There is feedback to, among, and from all stakeholders in the partnership, with the goal of continuously improving the partnership and its outcomes.
8. Partners share the credit for the partnership's accomplishments.
9. Partnerships take time to develop and evolve over time.

Helpful hints for success as "Co-educators"

(Adapted from <http://www.marquette.edu/service/communitypartner/helpfulhintsc educators.html>)

- Be selective on where you place students. Place students in appropriate areas to meet course requirements as well as agency needs. Making sure that everyone's needs are satisfied as much as possible will save headaches later on.
- You might institute an observation for the first day of service--after the site orientation--to help students feel more comfortable starting service.
- Spend time at the beginning of the semester giving background information to students so they will be more equipped to deal with situations that may arise.
- Invite students to sit in on staff or other meetings when applicable.
- Suggest additional resources to service-learners (books, etc.).

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- Hold debriefing sessions/exit interviews at the end of the semester to talk about what has happened. (It was suggested that this take the place of service on the final day, but it could also work as a separate meeting.) This could be a more in-depth final reflection time.

Who do I contact to become a Community Partner?

Contact the Office of Student Affairs

110 Bray Hall

1 Forestry Drive

Syracuse, NY 13210

(315) 470-6660

"Don't Take Our Word For it!"

Service-Learning Testimonials

"Every visit has been a very positive one. The students are always pleasant and are never unprepared for any task. We always look forward to their coming." (Sarah House)

"Thank you so much for such a delightful experience. What a joy to see the youth so relaxed with our residents!! They are still talking about the joy that made such a difference." (Rosewood Heights Assisted Living Center)

"We learned so much in such a short time. I'm convinced the best way to learn is to be in the place you're learning about. I will take these memories (with me) for the rest of my life." (Student who traveled to Dominica with the [FOR 523](#) class)

"This project has been the most satisfactory experience I have had at ESF. The community garden we build has become the symbol of the bond between my student and me, between ESF and the middle school, and perhaps between two very different worlds that exist very close to each other." (Megan, ESF Student)

Service-Learning and Community Service Partners

The links below connect to course projects in which these community partners were involved:

Service Learning and Community Service Partners

Adapt CNY

Albany Pine Bush Preserve

Amberations

Adirondack Ecological Center

Alibrandi Catholic Center

American Cancer Society

Adirondack Mountain Club

Alzheimer's Association

American Heart Association

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American Red Cross	Carpenters Brook Fish Hatchery	DeWitt Rotary
Animal Care Council	Cayuga County New Visions Program	Director of Volunteer Initiatives
Apple Orchards, Binghamton	Cayuga Lake Watershed Structure	Dominica Division of Forestry & Wildlife
Archbold Tropical Research & Education	Cazenovia Library	Dorothy Day House
ARISE	Centers for Nature Education	Ducks Unlimited
Atonement Day Care Center	Central New York Community Foundation	East Hill Elementary School
Baltimore Woods Nature Center	Christ the King Elementary School	Eastside Neighbors in Partnership
Beard Alternate School/Community Garden	City of Syracuse	Ed Smith Elementary School
Beaver Lake Nature Center	City of Syracuse Parks and Recreation	Elmwood Presbyterian Church
Big Brothers/ Big Sisters	Clary Middle School	Emerson Museum of Art
Binghamton Waterfront Community	Commonwealth of Dominica	Enable/Festival of Races
Bishop Ludden High School	Community Garden	ESF in the High School
Boy Scouts of America	Corcoran High School	Fair Housing Council of CNY
Boys and Girls Club	Corcoran PTSO	Fairmount Animal Hospital
Breast Cancer Research Foundation	Cornell Cooperative Extension Service	Farm Museum in Town of Eden
Bronx Economic Development Corp	Council for Community Design Research	Farm Sanctuary
Burnet Park	Crop Walk for Hunger	Faust Nature Trail
Camp Demolay	Crouse Hospital	First English Lutheran Church
Campfire USA	Developmental Services Office	Food Bank of CNY
Canopy		Fort Stanwix Visitor Center/National Park Service

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Franciscan Ministries Inc.	Girls	Lutheran Day Care Center	Oneida Community Mansion House
Great Swamp Conservancy, Inc.		Madison County	Oneida Shores
Green Lakes State Park		Make-A-Wish Foundation	Onondaga Council for a Cleaner Lake
Green Team		Manlius Environmental Council	Onondaga County
Grindstone Organic Farm		Meals on Wheels	Onondaga County Museums
Guppy Farm Nature Trail		Montezuma Audubon Society	Onondaga County Parks
Habitat for Humanity		NAACP Mentoring Program	Onondaga Creek
Heifer International		National Park Service	Onondaga Creek Corridor
Henniger High School		NAVAC EMT	Onondaga Creek Restoration Project
Highland Forest		Near Eastside Adventures	Onondaga Historical Association
Hillbrook Detention Center		New Environment Institute	Onondaga Housing Authority
Home Headquarters		Newell Street Community	Onondaga Lake Partnership
Huntington Family Center		Nurturing World Day Care	Onondaga Lake State Park
Int. Fund for Animal Welfare		NY Coalition of Great Lakes Legislators	Onondaga Nation School
Inter-Religious Council		NY State Museum in Albany	Onondaga Nation School
Jefferson Towers		NYC Zoo	Open Hand Theatre
Jubilee Homes of Syracuse, Inc.		NYPIRG	Ophelia's Place
Junior Achievement		NYS DEC	Our Lady of Lourdes School
Katy Christian Ministries, TX		NYS Department of State	Paige Wildlife Society
Kirk Park		NYS Department of Transportation	Partners in Learning
Labrador Hollow		Oakwood Cemetery	Peace Inc./Project Connection
Lexington Park		OCCRA	
Liverpool High School			
Community Service and Service-Learning at SUNY-ESF			

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Plymouth Congressional Church	Sierra Club	Syracuse Real Food Cooperative, Inc.
Poison Control Center	Sodus Point	Syracuse Stage
Prince George's County	Southside Charter Academy	TAP Tutoring Program
Refugee Resettlement of CNY	Spay and Neuter Society	The MOST
Rescue Mission Rescue Mission, Thrifty Shopper	SPCA	Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center
Rochester Comm. Design Center	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church	Thornden Park
Rockwell Elementary School	St. Francis Adult Day Care	Town of Camillus Dept. of Parks and Rec.
Ronald McDonald House	Student Conservation Association	Town of Cazenovia
Rosamond Gifford Foundation	SU Ambulance	Town of DeWitt Parks and Recreation
Rosamond Gifford Zoo	SU Center for Public and Community Service	Town of Eden
Rosewood Heights	SU Child Day Care	Town of Fine
Sacred Heart Church Community	Sugar Hill State Forest	Town of Minerva
Salsibury State Park	Susan J. Komen Cancer Found.	Town of Palmyra
Salvation Army	SYR Community Development	Town of Volney
Samaritan Center	Syracuse City School District	Tully Central Schools/ Volunteer Manager
Sarah House	Syracuse Department of Parks	Tully Volunteer Fire Department
Saratoga Center for the Disabled	Syracuse Dept of Community Development	U.S. Forest Service
Save the County	Syracuse Food Bank	Unity Kitchen
Sedgwick Heights Nursing Home	Syracuse Libraries	Upstate Medical
Shea Middle School	Syracuse Neighborhood Initiative	US Forest Service
		US/NYS Voter Registration

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USF&WS

Utica Zoo

VA Hospital

Village of Hancock

Village of Solvey

Village of Tully

Virtual Intoxication Golf Cart
Navigation Program

Vivian Teal Nursing Home

Wanderer's Rest

Westcott Community Center

Wildlife Rehabilitators

Willow Patch in Cazenovia,
NY

Wilson Park

Women's Information Center