www.mnsu.edu/toolbox
Centennial Student Union 173
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Stepping Up to Service…Getting Started

The time has come. A professor has included a service component in one of your classes or your schedule is allowing you time to consider ways to enhance your academic experience. Where should you begin? The expression “seize the moment” or “there is no time like the present” will carry you far as you weave service into your daily routine! After reviewing this information you will have insight into how to pro-actively design your experience and set the stage to optimize personal and professional growth through service!

Personal Resource Inventory

Whether you are incorporating service into your schedule to meet course requirements or for personal reasons, you will be lending your valuable time to a vital cause. For this reason, it is important to take some time to consider the resources you have available to you to assure that your service site is a good match for your skill set and schedule. Ask yourself.

• What time parameters or deadlines do I need to consider?
• When do I have time in my schedule to participate in service?
• What system do I need to pull together to promote reliable transportation?
• What skills do I have to bring to a service experiences?
• What are my interests and talents? What environments and organizations would be a good fit for my skills and interests?
• What do I ultimately want to gain from this experience?

Implementing a Resource Inventory will assist you in:
• making decisions about your service experience.
• shaping the environment you hope to work in.
• developing a time line that will support goal attainment.
• identifying and prioritizing service site options.
• preparing you for an interview with service site coordinating staff.
• presenting a professional image that maximizes networking potential.
Implementing a Resource Inventory will remove the stress of service and create a fulfilling experience!

What Next?

Now that you know what you hope to achieve and how you will introduce yourself to potential service sites, it is time to familiarize yourself with resources that are in place to streamline your search. Some of the resources that are available to you with a click of a mouse or a phone call, are listed below.

Minnesota State University Office of Community Engagement
www.mnsu.edu/engagement

Minnesota State Mankato’s Career Development Center www.mnsu.edu/cdc

Registered Student Organizations
http://www.mnsu.edu/activities/rso/

Council of Local Organizations for Volunteer Enhancement www.volunteermankato.org

Mankato Area Public Schools
www.isd77.k12.mn.us

Keep in mind that service opportunities evolve as system and human need evolves. The most valuable resource you have available is you. Your enthusiasm and interest level will pave the way!
By following these suggestions, you have taken an important first step as you prepare0 to serve!

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