Center for Community Engagement

Volunteer Orientation
Welcome to the Center for Community Engagement!

We are happy to help you find a volunteer experience that is productive and meaningful to you and for our community. For any questions regarding volunteer opportunities or to talk to the staff and CCE Student Leaders, you can visit us at the CCE House located at 333 Prospect Street, on the corner of Prospect and Windham Street. Phone: 860-463-0090, email cce@easternct.edu.
Volunteer Orientation

This brief orientation will prepare you to be a good volunteer. Read through the slides and then complete a brief quiz at the end.
Support Eastern’s vision for building a culture of civic responsibility and engaged learning.

Create effective relationships that are mutually beneficial to students, faculty and the community.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

We want you to have a positive experience at your volunteer site, where both you and the community partners and individual you interact with benefit. Here are some tips for having a positive and beneficial volunteer experience:

Tell us what your interests are.

Be clear with the CCE staff about what your interests are. We have many programs and can help you find an experience that meets your interests, course requirements (if applicable) and schedule.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Be committed. Be professional.

Identify your CCE Program Leader, as well as your contacts at the program/agency.

Your CCE Leader is your main contact for questions, concerns and resources. Your experience will be optimized by developing a strong relationship with your CCE Leader.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

We have very tight timeframes in order to get all volunteers to their sites on time. You will need to arrive at the CCE 15 minutes early for your ride, and get to the van on time when it is time to return to campus. If you are not, you hold up other students from getting where they need to go.

If you are unable to attend your program, you must call the CCE at 860-465-0090 at least 2 hours before your program time to let us know.

“The CCE is happy to provide volunteers with transportation to all CCE volunteer sites. You must be on time or you run the risk of being left behind.”

—Ken Bedini, Vice President for Student Affairs
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Gather information about your program: dates and times, where to go once you get to the site, what your responsibilities are. The CCE seeks volunteers for meaningful experiences – monitoring halls at a school is not a suitable volunteer experience for a CCE student volunteer. Volunteer positions must provide the venue to make a positive impact on an issue affecting our community such as literacy, health and wellness and environmental sustainability. These types of positions also provide you with the opportunity to develop professional skills, discover new careers and gain satisfaction in the work you are doing. If you are asked on a regular basis to do something that is not in line with our focus, let your CCE Leader know.

Be the change you wish to see in the world.

*Gandhi*
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Dress for Success!

Wear appropriate clothing. Schools and non-profit organizations are professional environments and you need to dress accordingly. Please avoid revealing clothing such as low cut tops, ripped jeans, leggings and pajamas. Some after-school programs may allow you to wear shorts depending on the program format and activities. If you are allowed to wear shorts, they must be professional length, which is to the end of one’s fingertips. Also, flip flops and hats are prohibited within any school. CCE Volunteer shirts and jeans or khakis are encouraged.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Volunteers should have no contact with clients that are minors outside of the program, unless consent is given by parents, the school and the CCE. This includes contact via any form of social media including Facebook, Twitter etc. Relationships with students must remain professional and within the programs scheduled meeting place and time.

Keep your social media private!
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

While in the program, keep cellphones and other electronic devices out of sight. Phone must be on silent or off during program time. No headphones or Bluetooth devices on ears. Absolutely no texting!!

No Cell Phones or headphones.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Stay in groups during your volunteer program time.

You are NEVER to be left alone with a student/client. You do not have the proper background checks for this. If you are asked to do something with a student/client and program staff members are not in the room, remind them that you are not permitted to be alone. This is a safety precaution for both you and for the client.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Join in the activities, don’t be shy!

When you arrive to your site, staff may be busy with children or other tasks. Find out who your contact should be and then be proactive about asking for an assignment. Introduce yourself, jump into the activity. Don’t wait for an invitation.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Please make sure you (clearly) sign in/out in the CCE Program binder each time you attend the program. Failing to sign in/out will mark you as absent in your student record. Please verify with your CCE Leader the location of and how to access the binder. If you are working in a tutoring or mentoring program, please include the number of students you worked with that day. This is a metric that we have to track for AmeriCorps and it is very important that you provide this every time you visit your program.

### ECSU VOLUNTEER SIGN IN

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Sign in and out in the CCE Program Binder.
How to Have a Positive Volunteer Experience

Reflect on your experience to maximize the benefit to you.

How will you be able to articulate what you have learned through this experience? As you are volunteering, think about how you will be able to use this experience in your coursework, and in the future. The more you engage in meaningful reflection, the better your outlook will be on your experience.
Commit to Your Program!

Complete the brief quiz here:

CCE Volunteer Orientation Quiz
Next Steps

You are now ready for your site-based overview with your CCE Leader and can start your program.

Thank you for volunteering!