



ECSU Student Center and Student Activities Office *Co-curricular education for student organizational leadership*

← WORTHWHILE SERVICE →

Community service is a characteristic of life at Eastern Connecticut State University. Its importance is visible everywhere on campus: in the classroom; within Student Life, synonymous with Leadership and Involvement; a residence hall that specializes in service ... organization recognition dependent on completing service. Service projects are something every ECSU student organization is familiar with at least in terms of fulfilling recognition requirements. Knowing you need to get something done and knowing how to get it done are two different things!

As a recognized student organization, service projects may be something that is required of your members, but it shouldn't and needn't be drudgery. There are so many different ways to provide service that surely you can find something that interests you! To get the most out of your service experience, there is a systematic way to get involved in service at ECSU.

DETERMINE YOUR INTERESTS

First, determine your interests. What is it that you like to do? Do you enjoy cooking? How about reading? Do you like little kids? Is there a social cause that you are passionate about? If you are going to dedicate time to providing service, it is time well spent particularly if you enjoy what you are doing.

TIME COMMITMENT

Second, determine your time commitment. Can you afford an hour a week? A Saturday afternoon? One evening a semester? Figure out how much time you are willing to give to help others.

WHY DO SERVICE?

Next, determine your reason to do service. If your only reason is because you have to, service will be drudgery. That's a sad waste of time when the same hour or two could be more than likely beneficial for you as much as the people you are helping. How much do you appreciate your friend's help with homework when he complains the whole time he's assisting you? How good does it feel when he gladly helps? If you are going to dedicate time to service, find a way to make it worthwhile.

Finally, contact the Unity Center for a short interest interview. The Unity Center can set you up with a short or long term service project based on your interests and time commitment. If the Unity Center is unable to help you, they will refer you to other campus organizations or the Volunteer Center of Windham County. There is a long list of people and projects needing assistance!

Some examples of the areas which have a lot of service opportunity include:

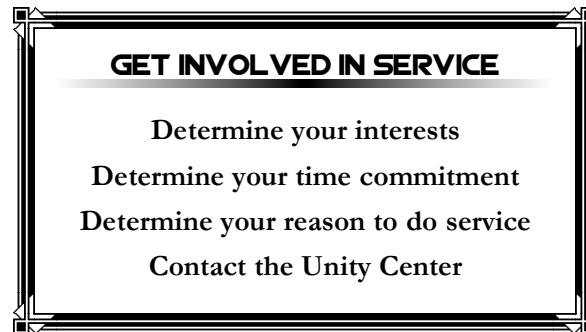
- ◆ Literacy
- ◆ Children's programs
- ◆ Hospital
- ◆ Disabled
- ◆ Family violence
- ◆ Elderly
- ◆ Food

There are also annual programs which require a great deal of volunteer help. These include:

- ◆ Earth Week
- ◆ Food & Clothing Drives
- ◆ Big Event for Little Kids
- ◆ Special Olympics
- ◆ Social justice trips to both domestic and international sites

SERVICE CONTACT

The Unity Center currently serves as the campus connection to community service for the campus. It is located on High Street. Stop by or give them a call at 465-5747.



REFERENCE

Adapted from: St. Norbert College, Department of Leadership, Service & Involvement

*Additional resource handouts are available as well as consultation services.
For more information, contact the Student Activities Office in the Student Center at 465-4450.*