What are Service Learning Projects?

Purpose: Frontline staff and volunteers will seek out community partners and utilize their strengths in STEM to enhance programs. Connect youth to community through service learning projects of local interest that promote STEM inquiry.

Objectives:

As a result of ongoing, consistent professional development efforts, frontline staff and volunteers will be able to:

1) Define and list examples of service learning projects

2) Explain ways to connect youth to the community through service learning projects

Step 1: Before the meeting, set a date and time for the meeting. Invite the participants to the virtual meeting. There are several virtual meeting sites that one can use. A few examples: Google Hangouts, group calls on Skype, and Go To Meeting.

Step 2: Before the meeting ask participants to read and fill out "Service Learning in STEM" Handout A. Allow 10 days to 2 weeks preparation.

Step 3: Discussion: Begin the virtual meeting by discussing service learning projects. Ask participants to get out their handout "Service Learning in STEM." Review the definition with

them located at the top of the page. Lead a discussion by asking these questions: (add other questions that fit your needs as a facilitator. During the discussion take notes about the answers to be able to send up a follow up email)

1. How will students benefit from Service Learning Projects?

2. How do you predict youth and our partners to react to the service learning projects?

3. How can we approach our business/industry partners about service learning projects?

4. How can we connect our afterschool program, STEM education, and Service Learning?

Step 4:   <u>Discuss examples of service learning:</u> Ask participants to share examples from their "Service Learning in STEM" sheet.

Step 5:   Review and close the meeting.

Step 6:   At the conclusion of the meeting, send out the notes and responses to the questions asked in Step 3.

Service Learning in STEM

Service Learning Definition: Teaching and learning strategy that integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities

1. How would you change/add to/adjust the definition of service learning?

2. Who are some of the current business/industry partners your afterschool program is currently working with?

3. What are some service learning projects that you could envision while working with current business/industry partners?

4. Brainstorm a list of any STEM type service learning projects that would encourage learning and building community relationships.