

An important aspect of any volunteer session is reflecting on your experience to gain a deeper insight into what impact your service has made and who will benefit from it. Agencies are encouraged to engage their volunteers in reflection activities before, during and/or immediately following the service project.

Reflection Questions and Activities

Any of these activities can be done verbally or written on paper; whatever the volunteers are more comfortable with.

I. Questions to ask before you begin your project:

1. Who will benefit from our project?
2. How does this organization help the community?
3. Is this your first service project?
4. What do you expect to learn from this experience?
5. What does service mean to you?
6. Do you think your service will make a difference in the community or someone's life?
7. Are you anxious or nervous about serving today?

II. Questions to consider asking in a group format after you've completed the project or while working, if appropriate:

1. Did you learn a new skill or gain a new interest?
2. How was/is the experience different from what you expected?
3. What did you learn about the people/community?
4. What did you learn through this experience?
5. How can you apply this learning?
6. What information can you share with your peers/the community?
7. If you could do the project again, what would you do differently?
8. What does service mean to you?
9. Did you meet anyone new today? If so, how important to you is this experience?
10. Do you feel like you made a difference?

III. For the creative and artistic expressionists:

1. If you have some scrap paper and crayons or markers lying around, during lunch, break or after the project, have your volunteers reflect through art as you ask some of the above questions.
2. Have your group write a letter to themselves about their experience while asking some of the above questions.
3. Ask volunteers to draw what service means to them.