

SCHOOL TOURS OF AMERICA

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM - LEADERS

Your School Tours of America customized program and itinerary now features the opportunity to add a service element. Service Learning is an approach that combines learning objectives with community service during your tour program. This approach provides a dynamic learning experience for the student, while meeting the needs of the community. The steps below outline your unique program and details to prepare for your service learning.

Step One: Preparation

Our fundamental goal of providing a service learning element in your tour is to help students prepare for life-long community service and citizenship. Service Learning integrates students' practical understanding of how the world works, applied leadership skills, and an orientation to think beyond oneself.

Preparation

1. Discuss the importance of serving the community by investing time to care for our Memorials, while learning about the history of each venue.
2. Communicate the details of the service opportunity and the importance of the reflection following the service learning and sightseeing experience.
3. Please be sure to remind students to have water, closed-toed shoes and appropriate clothing to prepare for serving.

Step Two: Service

Logistics/Program Details

Group Name: Your group name

Service Date: TBD

Service Time: One hour

Service Location: Korean War Memorial (Meet at Kiosk), Lincoln and Vietnam Memorials

Service Element: Your group will help preserve our nation's most iconic and respected memorials through a special project of picking up trash and recyclables. The projects are equally important and your work is appreciated by all of the Rangers and National Park Staff.

Service Reflection: TBD

Step Three: Reflection

Reflection is a key component of service learning and is that component which distinguishes service learning from volunteerism. Reflection provides chaperones the means to assess the experiential learning that students participate in service activities outside the classroom. Reflection also allows students to take what they learn from service activities and connect the new knowledge with the formal knowledge obtained from their tour with STA. Group Leaders/chaperones can ask the following questions during the scheduled reflection time.

What did you learn as you experienced the memorials? What did you learn about yourself while serving? How does this service make you think differently?

Upon completion of the STA service learning component, each participant will receive a certificate to record their service.

