



Tips for Selecting and Evaluating a Community Service Project

Following is a list of criteria to help classes and regional associations weigh the value of Alumni Community Service Projects based on their levels of Princeton alumni engagement and impact on the broader community. This list grew out of the efforts of one class to select and evaluate a project, and it is intended only as a rough guideline for other groups. The Committee on Community Service believes all service projects – from one-time, small group efforts to major long-term initiatives – can bring value to the Princeton and broader communities.

Criteria to consider:

BENEFIT TO THE COMMUNITY SERVED: Focus on how much the project benefits the community where the project takes place, including the number of individuals served.

MONEY & HOURS SPENT PER INDIVIDUAL DIRECTLY SERVED: Weigh how many dollars and volunteer hours are spent per end recipient against the value to the community and individuals served.

ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT: An important component of every community service project is the percentage of Princetonians volunteering their time. How well does the project generate enthusiasm among other alumni to volunteer?

ALUMNI DIVERSITY: Classes and regional associations that have organized community service projects have discovered that for many alumni, community service is their first involvement with Princeton as alumni. Does the project attract alumni who had not been involved before in alumni events?

PRINCETON NEXUS: Involvement of other Princeton alumni, faculty members, and current students is also a consideration. Does the beneficiary organization have a Princeton connection, e.g. was it founded by an alumnus/a? Do class projects involve child, grandchild and/or mirror (e.g. '79 - '97, '80 - '08) classes?

TRANSFERABILITY AND REPRODUCIBILITY OF THE PROJECT: Rate the ease of transferring the project to (or sharing the project with) other classes and associations. Can a Reunions service project be passed on to another class or adapted as an ongoing class or regional project?

VALUE OF THE PROJECT AS A DEMONSTRATION TO OTHER UNIVERSITY GROUPS AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC: How well does the project demonstrate the value of the Princeton experience and “Princeton in the Nation’s Service”?