

How to use Team Time

Michigan Campus Compact tries to encourage you to use your team time during Service Leadership Camp to plan for the upcoming year. There are many ways you can use this time effectively. Here are just a few suggestions.

- 1) Make sure your team knows each other. Give them time to get to know each other in ways that will help them to work together over the next academic year. *What are work style/s? How do you want to be communicated with? What makes a good team? Etc...*
- 2) Do a visioning process. *What would an ideal community service office be on your campus? What would we want to accomplish this year with community service if we could accomplish anything? Etc...*
- 3) Discuss what worked and didn't work last year. *How will we build on what we accomplished last year? What do we need to change? How do we support each other? What do we definitely need to keep? Etc...*
- 4) Motivate the students to action. *What was your first/last community service experience and how did it impact you? What drew you to community service? What keeps you motivated to do community service? Etc...*
- 5) Transition your students to viewing their community service in the bigger picture of society. *What would you change in this community/state/county/world if you could? How would you go about making those changes? Etc...*
- 6) Have students talk about specific programs [ASB, Best Buddies, Into the Streets, etc.] so that everyone understands all the programs your office offers.
- 7) Work on a plan for a specific event which everyone is involved in, such as Into the Streets; Make a Difference Day; Day on, Not a Day Off; City Service Day; etc.
- 8) Hold a reflection or discuss how you will do reflections at community service events.

These are just suggestions. Take and use what you can and build on it. Keeping your students focused on a task will allow you to get more done at camp and throughout the year. GOOD LUCK!

How Two Schools Have Used Team Time

Central Michigan University

At our staff retreat before MCC Camp we set goals for the academic year. At camp we took those goals and examined how each person could contribute and did brainstorming to discuss methods for achieving them. Because we have a variety of students going to camp, we are able to touch on the majority of our programs and see how we can achieve the Volunteer Center goals as a whole.

Saginaw Valley State University

At SVSU we use team time to inform the students about the upcoming year. I use them as a sounding board for our programming and recruit them to get involved in the planning, leadership and participation. I have strategically chosen who I bring (the President of X, the community service chair of X, etc.) They are already doing wonderful community projects. This is a chance to connect them with the office so we can work together or at the very least, know what each other is doing. I have used the following exercise for planning team time: I close my eyes. I imagine I have 2 hours with some of the most influential campus leaders and/or some of the most eager new students. What would I want to impart to them to further our institution's goals? What do I need from them to move forward? I write these things down and present that during team time. Corny? Maybe. Effective. Definitely.

Teambuilding Exercises:

The following exercises will be administered as part of the Teambuilding exercises portion of the weekend. We ask that you NOT use these during your individual team time.

High School Champion

Students are given a card with a piece of a problem. The team must work together to find the answer. Successful completion of the activity requires not only problem-solving skills, but a great deal of collaboration. Afterward, students assess their ability to utilize the knowledge of their team.

Barometer Exercise

A variety of words are read, and students move to the spot on the barometer (hot or cold) which best describes their initial reaction to the word. Students will then briefly describe why they chose their positions.

Lifeboat Problem

Students assume the role of a crew aboard a cruise ship in the middle of the ocean. Something has gone horribly wrong and the ship is starting to sink. They are only able to save a handful of the remaining passengers, but are held responsible for deciding who will board the lifeboat. Students are given descriptions of each passenger, and must rank their priority for boarding the lifeboat.

Blindfold Follow the Leader

Teams are challenged to move collectively from one point to another while being blindfolded. When they believe that the entire team has reached their goal, they let the facilitator know and evaluate their progress. During the process, rules are changed by the facilitator at random.

Magic Carpet

All students on a team stand on a piece of a cloth or a tarp, and must try to flip it over without stepping off of it. The size of the Magic Carpet and the size of the group greatly affect the difficulty in accomplishing this initiative. Students will reflect on their role and what their thoughts were during the activity.