

OPTIONAL: CIVIC LEARNING PROJECT

May be used to replace Home Ecosystem Lab (25 pts)

OBJECTIVE: to offer you an opportunity to work in the environmental field, learn about an environmental organization, and reflect upon what you and the organization have gained from the experience.

ASSIGNMENT: Establish a service learning/volunteer opportunity with an organization related to environmental biology (alternatively you may do environmental biology-related activities with an organization not related to environmental biology; e.g., teach environmental biology in a classroom). Write a **Volunteer Plan** that includes the name of the organization, the name of your supervisor, planned activities, and approximate schedule. Document at least 12 hours of volunteer activity (does not include writing report). **Documentation** consists of a **Log** of how your time was spent and a **note signed and dated** (that minimally includes your name, the number of hours you volunteered, and your supervisor's phone number and signature) from your supervisor verifying your 12 hours of work. Reports must follow the format below and must be typed, double-spaced, and about 2-4 pages in length (see sample below). You must present your report to the class and attend all other presentations. An electronic copy of the report must be turned into the instructor (e.g., attach MS Word file to email). You may turn in your report at least one week early for feedback.

ASSIGNMENT	POINTS	DUE DATES
Volunteer Plan		Refer to class schedule
Report	15	
Presentation	10	
TOTAL	25	

REPORT FORMAT

USE THE HEADINGS GIVEN BELOW. Follow the directions ***exactly***. See sample online.

TITLE [make informative]
Your Name

INTRODUCTION

State your **personal** goals you want to achieve through this volunteer work (make sure to make different from organization's goals for you).

Present background information on the organization for which you volunteered. Include:

Mission of Organization

Current Projects

Organization's Goals for your project

METHODS

Group the activities you did into categories.

For each category:

Give the percentage of your time spent doing activities in that category

Describe the activities you did in that category.

RESULTS

How did your efforts help the organization?

How did your effort help the environment?

How does your volunteer experience tie in with our class?

DISCUSSION: Reflect upon your experiences. Include at least the following:

Did you fulfill your initial personal goals (restate them)? Why or why not?

How might these experiences help you in the future?

What suggestions would you make to the organization?

What suggestions would you make to anyone else volunteering with this organization?

SAMPLE CIVIC LEARNING PAPER

[Note: remember to double-space!]

Forever Wild: a Wildlife Experience Extraordinaire

Your Name

INTRODUCTION

My personal goals

My personal goals when I first signed up with Forever Wild were to

Mission of organization

The mission of the organization is "To" (citation here).

Current projects

Describe here...

Organization's goals for my project

Describe here.

METHODS

Cleaning cages (62% of time: 9hrs:55min)

I cleaned the following cages... Each cage required ... Two cages were especially tricky because... Continue description of what you did..

Preparing animal food (15% of time: 2hrs:24min)

Description of what you did.

Feeding animals (14% of time: 2hrs:14min)

Description of what you did.

Training (9% of time: 1hr:27min)

Description of what you did.

RESULTS

How I helped the organization

I helped the organization by

Also, by doing the work someone else was going to have to be doing, that person was able to do the following that they may not have been able to do otherwise...

How I helped the environment

Describe

How my volunteer experience tied in with our class

Describe

DISCUSSION

How I fulfilled my personal goals

I fulfilled by personal goals by....

How my volunteer experiences can help me in the future

Describe

Suggestions to the organization

I suggest...

Suggestions to anyone else volunteering with this organization

I suggest...

Other comments

Add anything else here