

J-SERVICE THAT MATTERS

Checklist for Planning a J-Serve Program

Repair the World has a “special sauce” recipe for service: it isn’t just about volunteering. To do their “jobs” well, volunteers need to know why they’re serving, how to be most effective, and what their role is in bringing about social change. This has four parts to it: *context, skills, reflection* and *keep on keepin’ on*.

When planning your J-Serve program, we recommend choosing items from each section below to happen **during** the day of service.

Context

Partner Organization Orientation

Ask someone from the organization you’re volunteering with to tell the group about:

- What the organization does.
- The community they work with.
- The day’s project, why it is needed, and who it benefits.
- How they engage members of the community to advise their work and tell them what the community needs.

Social Issue and Community Impact

- Share some facts with the group about the issue your project is addressing.
 - Before the day, ask your volunteers what they want to learn about the issue and include some of that information.
- (if possible and appropriate) ask a community member who works with the organization talk to the group about why the work is needed and how it impacts him/her or the community.
 - If possible, it’s great to volunteer together with community members!

Skills

Skills for Success!

- Ask a representative from the partner organization to give the group a brief lesson on how to complete the task, use tools, etc. before you start working.
- If there are several different tasks, try to match volunteers’ interests or skills with the work that needs to be done.
- Throughout the day, make sure that everyone has something to do and knows who to ask for help if they need it.



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Reflection

Connection to Jewish Values

- Ask group if they think volunteering is a Jewish value and why/why not.
- [What does Judaism say](#) about the particular social issue you are addressing? Bring in a quote from a traditional or modern Jewish text to discuss.

Reflecting on the Experience (at the end of the service project)

- Ask the group what they learned and what questions they still have.
- Ask the group how they feel about the day and the experience.
[Check out this resource](#) for specific questions for reflection before, during and after the project.

Keep On Keepin' On

Keep on Serving!

- Work with the partner organization before the J-Serve event to identify opportunities for individuals to volunteer again. This can include one-time volunteer opportunities or ongoing projects.
 - At the end of the J-Serve event, ask someone from the partner organization to briefly tell the group about these opportunities
- OR**
- At the end of J-Serve, hand out a flyer or send an email with information about upcoming volunteer opportunities and how to sign up.
- Plan another group service day with the partner organization.
- Find other organizations to support and other ways to get involved such as raising money for the cause or getting involved in advocacy.

Keep on Learning!

- Talk about how you want to keep learning about the organization you volunteered with and/or the related social issue. Make a plan for an additional learning session about the issue.
- Educate others about the issue:
 - Blog about the experience.
 - Discuss your experience and share your reflections with friends and family.
 - Host a movie night with your youth group after J-Serve and watch a film that features the issue.

