What does it mean to be a community partner (CP) with the Norwich University Service-Learning (NUSL) Program?

A community partner:
- Is a non-profit or a group serving a community need.
- Has a project, vision or idea for improvements, growth, or a need.
- Identifies and quantifies the need (including resources needed)
- Works collaboratively with students and faculty.

How does a CP get started?
1. Identify your need.
2. Get “buy-in” from the necessary staff, Board members, or volunteers.
3. Contact NUSL:
   Michelle Barber
   Service-Learning Coordinator
   Norwich University
   Northfield, VT 05663
   802-485-2889
   mbarber@norwich.edu

What are the expectations of a CP during a project?
- Help staff and students understand the need/project and the organization
- Designate a consistent representative
- The representative needs to attend any meetings and supervise students on site
- Provide support to students and the project as needed
- Participate in post-project follow up

This brochure was compiled by the NUSL Community Partners.

NUSL Community Partners are involved members of the Vermont community who have been trained in service-learning.

Community Partners bring valuable perspective and experience to the NUSL Program and better connect NU faculty, staff, and students to the community-at-large. They participate in activities, as required by the Program, to generate a deeper understanding of service-learning.

Community Partners recognize that service-learning is both a valuable part of the Norwich experience and a benefit to Vermont and the local communities.
Norwich University defines service-learning as the *incorporation of service into the curriculum*. Norwich recognizes that service-learning must include:
- Explicit connections between the service and course objectives. (Course credit is given for learning, not service hours.)
- Students meeting real community needs and/or goals.
- Structured opportunities for students to critically reflect on their experience.

### How is service-learning different than volunteerism or internships?

Volunteerism is service provided to a community on an individual’s own time.

Service-Learning is the incorporation of service into the curriculum.

Internships are career-based experiences often for credit or pay and often with a for-profit company.

At NU, you can approach the NUSL Program, the Office of Volunteer Programs, or Internship Coordinators. This brochure is designed to help you determine if service-learning could best fit your need.

### Project Examples

- **Physical Education and Special Olympics**—PE students serve as the Games Management Team for two VT Special Olympics events each year.
- **Teacher Education and local youth**—TE students serve, educate, and mentor at Northfield Elementary School, Barre Town Schools, and the Northfield Boys & Girls Club.
- **Communications and Radio PSAs**—Radio Productions students created public service announcements for almost a dozen local organizations.
- **Civil Engineers are statewide!**—CE students have conducted SL projects for the Green Mountain Boy Scouts, Cross VT Trails, the Central VT Planning Commission, and the town of Roxbury, to name a few. They have surveyed, designed wastewater treatment facilities and a skate park, and evaluated flood causes.

Please contact NUSL to brainstorm any need you might have. We’ll do our best to connect you with the right people and see how our curriculum might benefit the community!