

Why Serve?

There are countless reasons for choosing to serve. Use this reflective questionnaire to help you deepen in clarity and intention, so that your service journey is meaningful for yourself and the community(s) you wish to serve. As you delve honestly into your reasons, expectations, and assumptions about self and community, we suggest you journal your reflections so that you can return to them later and observe your own evolution.

Reflections if you are exploring a long-term volunteer or service opportunity:



Why? - Why am I choosing to serve?
Why now?



What are some of the doubts and concerns I have about serving?



Who are the people and what are the experiences that have inspired me to serve? What do they inspire in me?



What are my gifts, challenges, needs, and areas of potential growth?



How much time can I commit? What can I reasonably expect for the period of time I am able to commit?

Further reflections If you know where you want to serve:



Why have I chosen this place? Why has it chosen me?



What do I know about the community? What is the community's culture? How can I learn more so I can be respectful of its cultural norms?



Why is community important? What does it mean to me to be part of a community?



What do I need to do to be mentally, emotionally, physically prepared to adjust and adapt to any unexpected challenges?

“If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

- Lila Watson, Aboriginal educator and activist