

## Questions to Ask Yourself



Find the “perfect fit” for you. Below are some questions to ask yourself as you begin to consider working in community service projects and placements.

### Time Considerations

- How much free time do you have available to do community service or social justice work?
- How many hours a week would you like to be involved?
- How much of a commitment are you willing to make? How many months are you able to commit to a volunteer job?
- Can you follow through with your commitment? This is a quality that agencies look for in volunteers.

### Skills, Interests & Experience

- What are you passionate about? How do you feel you can make a contribution to the community and address issues in which you have a personal interest?
- Have you done community service work before? What did you like/dislike about it? Do you want to do something similar again?
- Do you have any hobbies, interests, or paid work experience that you could use in your job?
- Are there career skills or experience you would like to develop through your community work?

### Job Setting

- Do you have a geographic preference? How far are you willing to travel to do volunteer work? How would you get there? Do you have access to transportation?
- Can you become a certified Smith driver to use a CSO van to get a placement or do you need to look for a placement within walking distance or on a bus route? Are there other Smithies interested in the same placement and are any of them a certified driver so that you can carpool in a CSO van?
  - For more information on becoming a certified Smith driver to go:  
<http://www.smith.edu/cso/transportation.php>
- What kind of atmosphere would you like to work in? Quiet? Fast-paced? Direct service? One on one? Administrative?
- Do you want to work inside or outside?
- Do you want to work independently or with others in a team effort?

Community Service Office  
Jandon Center for Community Engagement  
Wright Hall, 013

<https://www.smith.edu/academics/jandon-center/community-service-office>  
[cso@smith.edu](mailto:cso@smith.edu) 413-585-3060

## Focus

- What age group do you want to work with: Children? Teenagers? Adults? The elderly?
- Do you want to work with a community action or social justice program, a school or educational program? Would you like to work with recent immigrants? Would you want to work in a program that addresses physical, mental or emotional disabilities?

## Personal Considerations

- Do you know someone who could provide a reference for me if you need one? Have you asked that individual in advance so they will know that they may be contacted?
- If you are under the age of 21, do you understand that there may be certain volunteer opportunities that have minimum age limits for which I do not qualify?

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