

BRIERCREST

Advent Service Learning Challenge

December 2021; Showing kindness 25 ways for 25 days*

In lieu of a regular commitment to one organization or service throughout the semester/year we are allowing (encouraging) multiple and varied opportunities in order to nurture habits of service and fulfill the requirements of your Briercrest degree program. Aim for a minimum of 20 hours of volunteer hours to earn one Service Learning Credit.

Full Name:_____ Degree Program:_____

Email address: _____ Anticipated Graduation Year:_____

Please use this form when tracking your daily “kindness” over the course of the Advent challenge. This form should be turned in with your written reflection.

#	Date What day?	Time committed How long?	Activity What types of things did you do?
1			
2			
3			
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25			

*we encourage you to be varied and creative, but it is okay to repeat acts of service (not all must be unique)

Service Learning Office
November 29, 2021

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Advent Service Learning Reflection To be submitted with Advent Service Learning Log

Please **type** your reflection and include it with your Service Learning log. Reflections must include your name and email.

Write at least one paragraphs per prompt. You do not need to respond to every question, nor do you need to follow the order given in the prompts.

- ☐ The Mirror (self-reflection): What have you learned about yourself through your experiences? Do you have more/less understanding or empathy than you did before serving? In what ways has your sense of self, your beliefs, your sense of community, your willingness to serve others, and your self-confidence/self-esteem been impacted or altered through this experience? Have your motivations for serving changed? Has this experience challenged any stereotypes or prejudices you have/had? Are there any insights or strong lessons learned? Will this experience change the way you act or think? Did you give enough of yourself, care enough?



Were you challenged physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually?

- ☐ The Microscope (enlarging the view): Describe your experiences. What have you learned about the organization/groups you served, the people, or the community? Was there a moment of failure, success, indecision, doubt, humor, frustration, happiness, or sadness? Do you feel your actions had any impact? What more needs to be done? Does this experience complement or contrast with what you're learning in classes? Has learning through experience taught you more, less, or the same as in class?



- ☐ The Binoculars (the big picture): From your service experience, are you able to identify any underlying or overarching issues that impact the ministry/organization/community? What could be done to change or influence the ministry opportunities? How will this alter your future behaviours/attitudes/vocation? How would you encourage people to be involved in service opportunities?



**Questions borrowed and adapted from Mark Cooper, "Reflection: Getting Learning out of Serving." The Big Dummy's Guide to Service-Learning. 1996, Florida University Center for Leadership and Service.*

Instructions and Guidelines:

This is a fun challenge whether or not you need Service Learning credits, but if you hope to be awarded with a SL credit:

1. Complete the log by tracking 25 service/acts of kindness (dates and time involved). *Ideally the start and end date is December 1 – 25, but if you start late or miss a day just make sure you log 25 entries.*
2. Write the reflection assignment and submit it with the log **on or before Wednesday, January 19** to the Service Learning office (218B or servicelearning@briercrest.ca).

I look forward to hearing about your most memorable activities and how you were impacted by the services you selected.

As you take part in this challenge, consider celebrating the opportunities by sharing your unique experiences. The Briercrest Life Instagram page may help with some prompts and a way to countdown your involvement.

#AdventSL2021

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I'd encourage you to start each day with a prayer and ask God to open doors of opportunity for you. I hope you will be surprised and blessed by what you have the privilege to be a part of.

Plan ahead, think creatively, and have fun!

Here are some ideas:

- Sunday, December 5 and 12- join the student outreach team to care for the elderly on campus (meet @ the Golden Age Centre, 6:30pm)
- Wednesday, Dec 1 and 8- contact Will (Student Outreach Coordinator) about drop in youth sports program
- Shovel a neighbor's driveway
- Pick up garbage in your neighborhood or local park or along a stretch of road
- Step in as greeter at your home church
- Go through your closet and donate gently used items to a local charity
- Write an encouragement note to your pastor and a missionary friend
- Make/Bake treats to share with a neighbor
- Donate food to a local shelter and/or food bank
- Volunteer to wash the dishes and clean up the kitchen
- Babysit for free so the parents can do Christmas shopping or go on a date
- Leave a kind note on the hood of a stranger's car
- Clean the snow of the cars on your street
- Let someone skip ahead of you in line
- Plan games for some youth in your neighborhood (church, family)
- Make crafts together with some children in your neighborhood (church, family)
- Help someone wrap Christmas gifts
- Deliver hot drinks to someone who is working in the cold all day
- Write your teacher a note to tell them how much you appreciate him/her.
- Help someone load or carry groceries
- Share a Canadian Christmas tradition with a new immigrant
- Buy a present for an Angel Tree or similar project
- Spread you Christmas cheer though song
- Volunteer in the kid's program at church
- Make cards for nursing home residents
- Write an encouraging sidewalk message with chalk or in the snow
- Give blood at the local blood bank
- Candy cane bomb a parking lot
- Put change in the Salvation Army bucket
- Leave a coin in the shopping cart for the next shopper
- Walk someone else's dog
- Hold the door open for people all day