

NAFSA Region VII Conference

Service Learning vs. Community Based Learning: Why the Difference Matters

Case Study - Astronomy and its Socioeconomic Impacts in Puerto Rico

You're sending students to Puerto Rico with a professor planning to teach them about the socioeconomic impacts of major science research facilities. The larger curriculum of the program is designed to explore colonialism, imperialism, and the ethics of travel. The week-long program included a tour of the colonial city center, visit to an observatory, and sufficient free time.

You are picking among the following activities to finalize the itinerary. What are the pros and cons of each activity here? Which do you choose and why? (Cost is the same for all of the following activities - approx. \$200 each.)

- 1) Volunteer at a local elementary school to create a school garden. You don't know what kind of interaction to expect, but you know your students are really excited to work on the garden.
- 2) Visit a cultural center dedicated to Puerto Rico's unique history and African and Native American heritage.
- 3) Lunch and campus visit with an Astronomy club at a local university.
- 4) Spend the day with a local nonprofit that works to protect natural, cultural, and human resources. Tour their artisan shop, radio station, butterfly farm, solar cinema, solar forest and art gallery.

Contact information:

Roman Yavich, Learn From Travel, roman@learnfromtravel.com

Laura Ochs, Agnes Scott College, lochs@agnesscott.edu

Tanyshia Stevens, Agnes Scott College, tstevens@agnesscott.edu

Category	Lacking (1)	Acceptable (2)	Excellent (3)
Learning objectives	Not addressed	Addressed	Leverage unique elements of host community
Host objectives	Not known	Known but not prioritized	Known and prioritized
Financial contribution	Negative	\$0	Fair
Cultural exchange	Not considered	Included	Facilitated
Potential for continuity	None	Possible	Planned

	Assign 1-3 points based on rubric			
Priorities	School Garden	Cultural Center	Astronomy Club	Local Nonprofit
Learning objectives				
Host objectives				
Financial contribution				
Cultural exchange				
Potential for continuity				
Total				

Resources:

Community-Based Global Learning Collaborative (CBGLC) and Fair Trade Learning Rubric

- <https://www.cbglcollab.org/ftl>

GlobalUp - AFS Global Competence Certificate

- <https://www.globalup.com/>