

## Season of Service 2008 FAQ's For Parents

Welcome to the Wheaton community! We hope you are as excited about the concept of Season of Service as we are. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions. If you have any other questions about Season of Service or any other aspects of the work of the Office of Service, Spirituality and Social Responsibility, please feel free to contact me by phone (508-286-3370) or email ([vparnell@wheatonma.edu](mailto:vparnell@wheatonma.edu)). -- Vereene Parnell, Associate Dean for Service, Spirituality and Social Responsibility

- 1. What is Season of Service?** Season of Service is a 6-week period (a *season*) during which each member of the entering class will participate in *one* half-day community service project developed with our partnering agencies in the “Greater Norton Metropolitan Area.” We hope this experience gives our students an opportunity to learn more about their new neighborhood, their new classmates – and themselves – while making our local communities a better place to live. Season of Service also provides students with an important introduction to Wheaton’s long tradition of civic engagement and encourages them to reflect on their own values and the impact their actions have on the world around them.
- 2. What kind of projects will students be doing?** Everything from recreation activities with children to sprucing up senior centers, clearing park trails and helping put community gardens “to bed” for the winter.
- 3. How do they choose their projects?** They don’t. Projects are assigned by First Year Seminar (FYS) class and students pick up their assignments at the SOS table at orientation sign-in. In many but not all cases, projects will relate in some way to the subject of their FYS or to the summer reading assignment.
- 4. What kind of agencies will be hosting these projects?** Our community partners are all well-established not-for-profit educational or social service organizations. These include the Taunton Housing Authority, Norton Library Park, Attleboro YMCA, and the Greater Boston Area Food Bank. Please contact us if you would like a complete list and short description of all our sites.
- 5. How do students get to their service site and what should they bring with them?** Transportation is provided by the college. The assignment sheets they received at sign-in tell them when and where to meet the buses, what to bring and – based on their particular site – whether there are special clothing requirements (sneakers instead of flip flops!).
- 6. I notice students sign a liability waiver when they receive their assignment. Will these projects be dangerous?** Absolutely not! But accidents can happen anywhere – so we have taken all foreseeable safety precautions. The college will provide insect repellent and sunscreen for students working outside and extra water and snacks for everyone. Team leaders will be equipped with first-aid kits, emergency contact information, and will be working with at least one staff member from the host agency.

*Season of Service is coordinated by the Office of Service, Spirituality and Social Responsibility. For more information about SSSR, check out our web site at [www.wheatoncollege.edu/sssr](http://www.wheatoncollege.edu/sssr)*