Reflection is an integral part of service learning and student attendance for at least one session is HIGHLY encouraged. Many professors have made attendance mandatory for their classes. You are welcome to attend as many reflection sessions as you would like. Mark your calendars now and be sure to save the date for the topic(s) that relate to your course. These reflections are specifically geared towards service learning experiences. We hope to see you there!

Please RSVP for reflection sessions that you plan to attend at:
http://www.marquette.edu/servicelearning/service-learning-reflection-form.php

*Arriving more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early will not be counted as a reflection attendance.

Introduction to Service Learning and our Milwaukee Community
September 16th, 6:30-8:00pm, AMU 163
This session is strongly encouraged for those who have never participated in Service Learning.

Students who are new to service learning are highly encouraged to attend this session in order to learn about expectations and strategies for getting the most from this academic learning experience. Service Learning is a unique opportunity to integrate your learning between your traditional classroom and your community classroom, but what should you be doing as a student to help make those important connections? Hear from veteran service learning students about their experiences around navigating their organizations, building relationships with community members, writing reflection papers, and moving outside of their comfort zones. This session will give you a brief historical overview of Milwaukee, help you explore ways to positively interact with the organization you will serve, and help you examine your own comfort levels before you begin service.

DISCUSSION ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN MILWAUKEE: After the reflection session there will be an additional discussion on public transportation in Milwaukee. Students who have never utilized public transportation are encouraged to attend this discussion. Staff will be on hand to help students with bus, taxi, and carpool concerns and questions.

Ignorance is Bliss (or Is It?)
September 23rd, 5:30-7:00pm, AMU 227
This past year it would have been nearly impossible to escape being bombarded with news headlines and stories about grave injustices around racism, poverty, sexism, and human suffering. With injustice overflowing at our doorstep, many people choose to look the other way or to not engage in these sometimes heated conversations and instead focus on the superficial. How does our ignorance, blind spots, or unwillingness to engage with what is going on in our community affect our relationship with the people and organizations we serve? When we are educated about these types of issues, how do we take personal responsibility and action? During this session, you will explore those questions in relation to your service learning experience and determine ways to better educate yourself.

What Does Race Have To Do With It?
October 5th, 3:00-4:30pm, AMU 157
Our racial identity affects how we serve, our perceptions of the people and organizations we serve, and how the people and organizations perceive us. Though sometimes uncomfortable, critical discussion of racial identity and service must happen if we are to engage in authentic relationships. When thinking about various oppressed groups of people, everyone has some type of privilege. White privilege and privileges that exist for people of color will be the topic of discussion. How does recognizing our own privileges help us in developing greater cultural competency, and why is it so important?
Perpetuation of Poverty
October 26th, 5:00-6:30pm, AMU 227
According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2013, across this land of opportunity, 14.5% of Americans lived in poverty. Milwaukee is the 9th poorest city in the nation and over 42.6% of children live in poverty. What stereotypes do we have about the poor, and how does that perpetuate the issue? How do other systems of oppression contribute to the perpetuation of poverty? Come prepared to discuss, ask questions, and challenge your own notions of poverty to better serve within the Milwaukee community.

Integrating my Service with my Coursework
November 1st, 2:00-3:30pm, AMU 227
Service Learning is a teaching and learning method designed to help students practice, test, observe, feel, question, and connect what they are learning in the classroom to real life experience. Sometimes those connections are obvious, and sometimes they require students to be assertive and do some digging and reflection. In this session we will discuss the connections we are seeing between our academic coursework and our community service experiences. Students should come ready to explore what they have learned this semester and how their learning has grown as a result of their service learning experience. This session will also provide ideas for writing meaningful service learning reflection papers and final assignments. Attendees are asked to bring a copy of the syllabus for their service learning course.

Solidarity Through Service
November 23rd, 6:30-8:00pm, AMU 227
Founder of Homeboy Industries, Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J. writes, “There is no ‘them’ and ‘us.’ There is only us.” Community service is at the forefront of our University’s mission, but if not done in the spirit of kinship and solidarity, it can only perpetuate the power dynamics of inequality. This session will discuss the “savior complex” and the danger in trying to “help” without seeing our interconnectedness. As Fr. Boyle asks, how do we obliterate the notion that we are separate? Our goal through service learning should be to create kinship, which will lead to justice and peace. How can we approach our engagement with our community in this manner?

What Will Be My Legacy?
December 1st, 4:00-5:30pm, AMU 157
-OR-
December 9th, 5:30-7:00pm, AMU 227
Legacy is defined as a gift that is handed down to others. Your legacy is formed daily as you make choices about where you choose to invest your time, energy, and attention. Thinking about your legacy involves making decisions about who you want to be, what you want to share with others, and how you go about becoming that person. How does your service learning experience shape the legacy you want to leave behind? What impression do you want to leave behind at the organization where you served? During this session, you will explore how your values are shaped by your service learning experience and how this experience shapes the way you want to live your life.

Please note that you should only attend one of these two sessions, you will not receive double credit for attending both. Final reflections will be capped at 100 students per session.

Attendance will be recorded and provided to professors at the end of the semester.