Developing Your Service-Mindedness

Studying at the University of Georgia prepares you to be a groundbreaker in your field and a leader in your community. Create a strong foundation for your future by developing a habit of learning about and caring for your community. This practice is called service-mindedness.

> **Service-Mindedness**
> *noun*
> the values-based integration of personal accountability, critical self-reflection, and mutually beneficial relationships into one's actions and mindset for the purpose of the sustained improvement of one's community.

Your personal level of service-mindedness affects your relationships with the communities you belong to, how you relate to people around you, and how you live out your values. In addition to creating a stronger community, volunteering promotes positive well-being (Thoits & Hewitt, 2001). UGA and Athens-Clarke County have many opportunities for students to increase their service-mindedness, even for busy students.

Practicing service-mindedness includes volunteering, serving on committees, getting to know your neighbors, and much more, but it starts with consciously engaging with your values.

Identifying Values

Your values help you create a life that's meaningful to you, but recent experiences or reflection might have changed your outlook on life and the values you think are most important.

Step 1: Choose your top 5 values using the list below or by adding your own. Use this link to sort these values. Focus on your interpretation of the values.

Achievement	Diversity	Flexibility	Meaningful Work	Safety
Adventure	Ecology/Environment	Freedom	Money	Security
Autonomy	Education	Friendship	Order	Service
Challenges	Ethics	Happiness	Philanthropy	Spirituality
Change	Excellence	Health	Play	Stability
Community	Excitement	Helping Others	Pleasure	Status
Competence	Excitement	Honesty	Power	Wealth
Competition	Fairness	Independence	Privacy	Work
Cooperation	Faith	Integrity	Recognition	_____
Creativity	Fame	Leadership	Relationships	_____
Decisiveness	Family	Loyalty	Religion	_____

Step 2: Map your family, friends, and society's values using this worksheet.

Society

Friends

Family

Myself

_____

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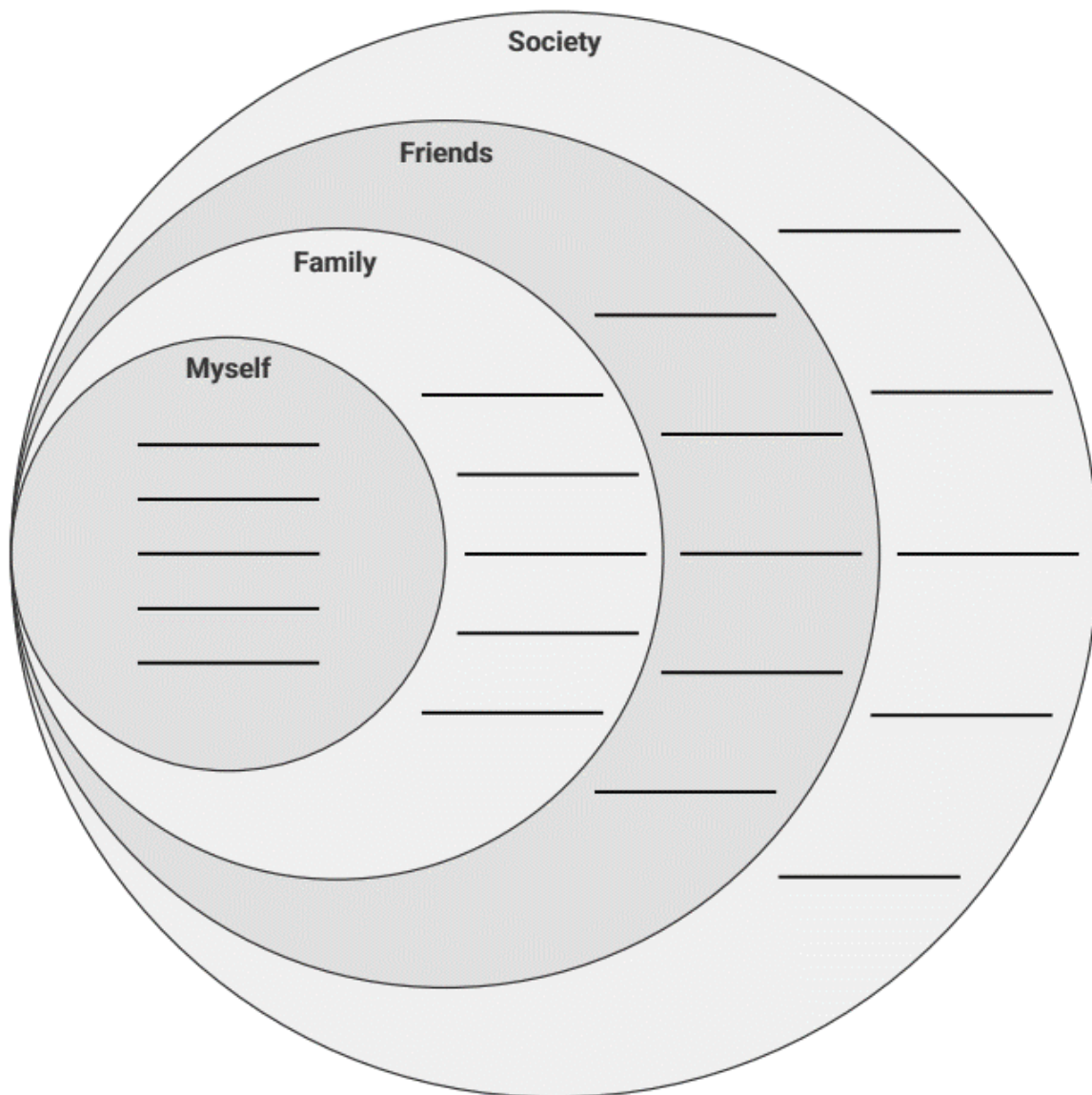
Where did your values come from?

Get Curious about Your Community

A community is a social group defined by four criteria: membership, influence, integration and fulfillment of needs, and shared emotional connection. To be part of a community, you must feel a sense of belonging (membership), feel like you make a difference to the group and that the group makes a difference to you (influence), feel like your needs will be met by other group members (integration and fulfillment of needs), and feel that you share history, similar experiences, time, and space together (shared emotional connection).

What communities are you a part of? Your communities might come from shared physical space or shared experiences, values, or ideals that you have regular communication and contact with. What comes to mind first? Examples include:

- Neighborhoods
- Schools
- Teams
- Religious Groups

- Families
- Online Groups
- Towns & Cities
- Projects or Tasks

My community is _____. Another community I belong to is _____.

Regularly learn about your community.

All communities have strengths and areas of growth. Look for needs identified by the community members themselves to see how you can contribute your time, talents, and treasure to helping your community grow and flourish. Often, communities highlight needs by creating organizations, projects, and movements. These initiatives help community members have the resources they need to meet their needs and live out their values.

For the UGA community, some of the needs that students, staff, and faculty have identified and addressed resulted in these projects:

- SGA Clothing Closet
- UGA Food Pantry
- Bulldog Basics
- Sunshine Fund

Ways to learn more:

- Set up Google Alerts with keywords that help you learn about the social issues that you're interested in, especially related to your city or state.
- Review legislation and contact your representatives through Georgia or Congress.
- Read websites and annual reports from nonprofit organizations to learn more about their impact.
- Ask your friends what their interests are regarding social change!

Next Steps

Which of your values and traits might most benefit your community? Choose three of your values and match them with a nonprofit from our Athens-Clarke County bank or in your hometown.

Examples:	Location	Task
Creativity	Love.Craft Athens	At Love.Craft, I can help disabled adults access a creative social space with photography, pottery, and music. I know my friend will go too!
Education	Books for Keeps	During the year, I can sort books in the warehouse. Since I'll be in Athens over the summer, I can help distribute books to children in my community!
Family	Athens Area Diaper Bank	Diapers are a huge expense for parents, and 1 in 3 babies in Athens don't have regular access to diapers. I can talk to my student org about hosting a diaper drive, and I can listen to a podcast or my audiobook while packing clean diapers to go out to my neighbors.

Value	Location	Task

Get Involved

- Volunteer with on-campus resources like Bulldog Basics, the Food Pantry, and UGArden to benefit your UGA community.
- Commit to volunteering at least twice a semester with your student organization!
- Invite your friends to volunteer for a no-cost bonding activity.
- Try finding festivals or markets to volunteer for, then enjoy the festival afterward.

Athens-Clarke County Resources & Events

- Athens Water Festival
- Vulture Festival
- Rivers Alive – river cleanup of the Oconee River Basin
- National Diaper Need Awareness Week – Athens Area Diaper Bank
- Books for Keeps – annual book sale & book drive

UGA Resources

Involvement Network

Registered student organizations and offices can submit events on the Involvement Network! Use these events to communicate expectations about your event, track participant RSVPs and attendance, and even send follow-up surveys.

GivePulse

Branded as Engage Georgia, GivePulse is a platform where students can find upcoming volunteer shifts. Many local nonprofits list their shifts and trainings on this website as an easy way to centralize scheduling.

Campus Reservations and Events

If you need a meeting place on campus, contact Campus Reservations and Events to explore spaces, prices, and setup options that work best for your event.

Engagement, Leadership, and Service

Please contact our office at ugaels@uga.edu or visit in Tate Student Center 102! We are happy to talk through your plans for community engagement share resources to support your success.