

# SERVICE LEARNING AT ACG

# Service Learning and Human Rights Education in Greece

ACG's co-curricular experiential programs on meaningful engagement, action-based learning, human rights and social impact

Within the scope of the College-wide ACG Cares initiative, ACG's service learning and human rights co-curricular educational programs are at the core of Student Life and combine offerings for enrolled students, as well as tailor-made programs for faculty-led groups and youth teams, spanning throughout the semester.

Service learning, giving-back and the spirit of volunteering are at the heart of education at ACG. ACG service learning programs include Student Life's signature program, The Meaningful Engagement Trip, and tailor-made initiatives involving engagement in the activities of student groups, such as S.E.R.F, the student emergency response force, and the Better Days for Strays club. Service learning activities and trips in Athens and the Greek provinces are designed, developed and implemented by College educators and administrators with expertise in service learning and humanitarian education program building in collaboration with ACG's wide network of alumni, partners and donors.



### **ACG'S MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT TRIP**

In the Fall and Spring semester, enrolled students at ACG can apply to join the *Meaningful Engagement Program*, involving a 3-4 day trip in the Greek provinces. The program combines cultural immersion in local communities outside Athens through service, and offers a range of service learning opportunities.

### Focus areas include:

- Interaction with children and children's rights
- Socio-cultural exchange with refugees
- Tutoring, mentoring and career counseling to promote literacy and respond to unemployment
- Empowerment of youth and youth choices
- Health education and awareness
- Holistic approaches to wellbeing
- Emergency response and safety in the field
- Interaction with elders and reflection on age, aging and citizenship
- Responding to homelessness and poverty
- Animal protection and advocacy for those who have no voice
- Building inclusive student communities
- Transforming perspectives on disabilities
- Countering discrimination
- Acting and reflecting as agents of change
- Effectively documenting social impact





# Why engage in service learning and human rights education?

- Become a global citizen
- Enrich skillset and activate critical thinking
- Practice servant leadership
- Act as a social problem solver
- Learn to work within diverse groups
- Encourage creativity
- Celebrate diversity
- Transform into a human rights advocate

# Meaningful Engagement Trip Application Process

#### **Fall Semester**

Applications open in early August and are advertised to the ACG student body and partner institutions.

Application deadline: last week of September
Interviews: first week of October
Meaningful Engagement Trip: between late October and

mid-November, depending on the midterm period

## **Spring Semester**

Applications open in late November are advertised to the ACG student body and partner institutions.

**Application deadline:** first week of February second week of February

Meaningful Engagement Trip: between mid-March and early April,

depending on the midterm period





# Contact the Office of Student Affairs to learn more!

### The American College of Greece

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### Comprehensive fee includes:

- Program development
- Coordination of communication and activity design with partners and local stakeholders
- Space booking
- Administrative work (required permits; documentation for volunteers; disclaimers; form processing for participants)
- Team building and training tailored to activities and involving subject matter experts (taking place on ACG campus premises, unless on-site presence is necessary)
- Production of inventory and list of supplies and equipment required for the service equipment
- Cost of supplies and equipment
- Group reflection sessions with expert in volunteer engagement and human rights education programs
- Optional fee for social media coverage and photographic documentation of activities by experienced documentary photographer and videographer
- Optional fee for creation of individual feedback forms for each volunteer
- Optional additional fee for report of program impact and highlights based on survey generated to cover all program components, including quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the program, testimonials, survey results etc.