

**ST**  **NEWALL SPORTS**

Norfolk, VA | Est. 2018

# SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

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MPH 776



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## What is Stonewall Sports?

Stonewall Sports, Founded in 2010 is an LGBTQIA+ community-based, non-profit sports organization that strives to raise funds for local non-profit organizations through organized sports. Our league values each player for who they are and what they bring to each league's community. Stonewall Sports was founded and approved in Norfolk in 2018.

*What is Stonewall Sports?* (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.stonewallsportsnorfolk.org/>

## Our Vision

We believe every person should have the ability to feel comfortable being oneself in organized sports. Stonewall Sports Norfolk values each player for who they are and what they bring to our community. In addition, we believe that organized communities have the ability and responsibility to support others in need.

*Our Vision?* (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.stonewallsportsnorfolk.org/>



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What is my role?

The League was founded in Aug 2018, as a founding member I served as the sports director. Fast forward to 2022 I now serve as the Commissioner.

Roles:

1. In charge of running the league and managing all subordinate officers.
2. Set the overall agenda and goals of the league each year.
3. Official legal representative of the league and sign all permits, contracts, and other binding notes.
4. Final authority on all league business and matters and serve for 3 fiscal years.

Board of directors  
All members of the board of  
directors are volunteers.



John White

(He/Him)

COMMISSIONER

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What insights have you gained out in the community that you may not necessarily have gained in the classroom?

- Positive community impact: The community is able to come together as one to help many others benefit. Inclusive, low-cost, high-fun sports that are managed as a non-profit while able to raise money for other local non-profits.

Examples of what Stonewall Norfolk has done

- Conducted Toy drive for “ForKids” and raised \$10,000 to give them
- Raised \$7,000 for “Transgender Assistance Program
- Raised \$5,00 for LGBT Life Center
- Raised \$7,00 for PFLAG





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How can this experience provide information to public health and global health professionals?

- Sharing data with the research community could potentially provide insight into strategies to help improve health services in the community, this was very helpful during COVID-19 for contract tracing.
- We help the community with community outreach, we volunteer and help the Virginia Beach Department of Public Health with the vaccine clinic back in Aug at The Wave Night club, while also having a representative from the Public Health center come to speak at our events about monkeypox.

**HEALTH & MEDICINE** Norfolk nightclub The Wave hosting a monkeypox vaccine clinic Saturday

By **Lauren Girgis**

The Virginian-Pilot

<https://www.pilotonline.com/news/health/vp-nw-monkeypox-clinic-wave-20220823-pq7kwyj2rbgmdp7hewvmjzo3iy-story.html>



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Has the service learning experience influenced your personal skills?

Volunteering with SSN Norfolk as a board member is no easy task, you have to trust in your board members to all come together and complete tasks, and not take everything on yourself while building trust in one other. This experience has given me better confidence in myself and helped increase and develop my communication skills/public speaking. Other benefits are my decision-making, growth, and leadership skills.



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Has the service learning experience changed your ability to relate to people?

As a member of the LGBT community myself, SSN Norfolk is committed to the ideals of diversity and inclusion and I support it in every aspect.

Every person should have the right to feel safe and comfortable being themselves. While also want to help create an experience that affirms the dignity and value of all individuals with regard to age, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious or spiritual beliefs, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socioeconomic status, physical or mental ability, size, appearance, and anything that can make someone feel excluded. But this is not always the case in today's society.



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What do you see as the benefits, if any, of service learning over classroom learning?

- Decision-making
- Help gain potentially career-related skills
- Engage and gain a relationship with your communities
- Cultural differences awareness

How could you develop your service-learning initiative into a community-based research project?

To create community-based research SSN Norfolk could work with the Public Health department and create a project outline, create goals, and choose a timeline with the help of community outreach they could make a project happen.





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Why is reflection an important part of service learning and service learning community-based research? How would it be implemented?

- Reflection exercises are a crucial component of good service learning since they relate service actions to course material, expanding the educational agenda beyond rote memorization. As a volunteer with a sports league, reflective activities serve as the link between my community work and the educational information I have acquired. Reflection exercises draw the individual's attention to fresh interpretations of events and give a mechanism through which community service may be explored and understood in much the same way a book is read and analyzed for greater comprehension (Akhurst & Mitchell, 2022). Reflection in service learning is implemented through enhanced deep thinking.



Please describe how service learning and community-based research are important to Global Health.

- As with privacy, the value of health research to society is quite significant. It may give valuable information on illness trends and risk factors, treatment results or public health initiatives, functional skills, trends of care, and health care expenditures and use. Service learning enables us to interact directly with communities and see the application of public health ideas in the actual world. Community-based medical research unearths information to support the following: Prevent illness and impairment. Manage sickness symptoms. Improving end-of-life care. Reading or learning about problems is not the same as getting engaged firsthand. It gets people closer to families and people in need and provides them with direct experience and insight into their circumstances. Community service provides students with real-world experience and the opportunity to hone skills such as leadership and timekeeping. Volunteering allows students to apply classroom knowledge to actual situations with real-world consequences.

## Reference

Akhurst, J., & Mitchell, C. (2022). Community-Based Service Learning During Clinical Psychology Training: Working at the Critically Reflective Interface. In *The Palgrave Handbook of Innovative Community and Clinical Psychologies* (pp. 347-373). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

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