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Building Homes, Building Hope: Learning Leadership Through Service

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Building homes, building hope: Learning leadership through service

Melanie Tomlinson

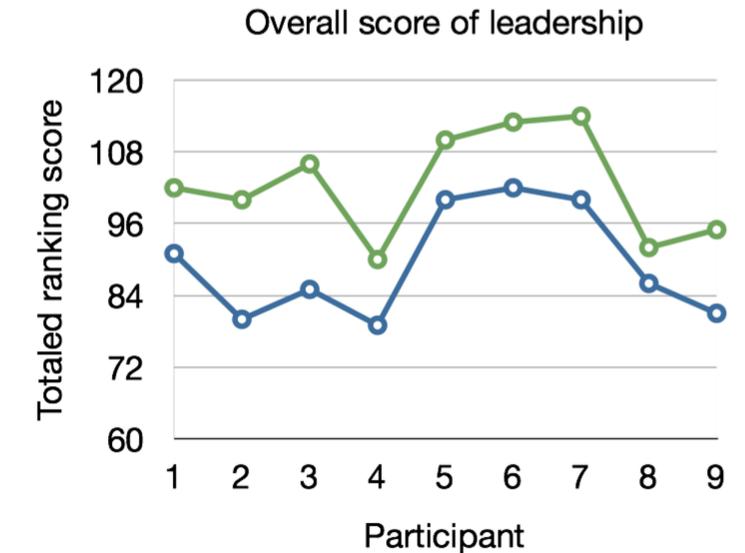
Leadership skills & abilities (ranked by individual participants)



○ Communication skills (before)
○ Communication skills (after)



Leadership skills & abilities (ranked by individual participants)



○ Before ○ After

Alternative Spring Break Planning Steps & Outline

First steps:

- Connect with potential service sites and establish relationship
- Advertise application, review applications, and choose participants from applicant pool

Planning details:

- Secure location of stay and showering facilities
- Plan pre-trip meetings for participants to turn in paperwork and make trip plans
- Determine costs and secure funding
- Plan schedule for week of service

During trip:

- Shop for food items
- Follow schedule of events for week
- Begin each morning of service with ice breaker or energizer
- End each day of week with reflection on service experience
- Keep location of stay and showering facilities clean at all times
- Encourage and support all participants, keep a positive attitude at all times
- Be available for participants to talk to if needed



Project Description

“Building Homes, Building Hope: URI’s Alternative Spring Break Trip in Partnership with South County Habitat for Humanity” was created to address the needs of South County Habitat for Humanity (SCHH). This spring, SCHH had approximately 5 builds in progress, and so two AmeriCorps Scholarships for Service members who have worked directly with SCHH this year, myself and my co-leader, were asked to lead the trip. The two of us organized the trip with supervision from the Coordinator of the URI Clearinghouse for Volunteers (Sarah Miller) and the Volunteer Coordinator of SCHH.



Results

Throughout our week of service during spring break, my co-leader, our 9 participants, and myself assisted two SCHH volunteers to work on the Home for a Hero being built for a disabled veteran. Our group dedicated over 23 hours of building to SCHH, along with several hours to the JohnnyCake Center of Westerly one day as well. Through reflection, I also incorporated information about leadership theories and skills, which helped to encourage the development of leadership skills among participants. Their realization of their abilities and improvement of their skills is reflected in the charts I have included.