



## Partnership Learning Tree

**Roots:** The underlying values of all partnership learning: cooperation, relationship, dialogue, integration, reciprocity, & reflection. At the root of partnership is also the commitment to time together. Learning partnerships develop over the course of time, not through a single get-together or an isolated exchange. This perspective does not discount the value of single community field trips that support a curricular goal, such as visiting the zoo to enhance a study of bats and bat conservation, or a trip to the food co-op to illustrate a unit on nutrition and packaging. Sometimes these experiences can develop into partnerships, but they do not have to go further in order to be valuable.

**Trunk:** Partnership Learning is one big idea that unites several types of learning partnerships.

**Branches:** Partnership Learning encompasses several different types of potentially interrelated partnerships. Ideally, every type of learning partnership is integrated into existing or emergent curriculum, through content, skills, or values--or all three. See definitions of "branches" on reverse side.

# BRANCHES OF PARTNERSHIP LEARNING



## **Service Learning Partnership\*:**

A partnership with a community organization for the purpose of meeting an authentic community need, combined with reflection on the experience for deeper learning--ideally in the context of broader curricular goals. Examples: tree planting with Chester Ridley Crum Creek Watersheds Association (CRC), Bernardine Center (food cupboard) mini-course.



## **Social Action Partnership\*:**

A partnership with a social action or advocacy organization, for the purpose of learning first hand about strategies for social change and democratic participation in issue work.

Example: SRV has not recently participated in a social action partnership.



## **Subject Study Community Partnership:**

A learning partnership with any type of cultural, historical, or educational organization for the purpose of deepening and making more real and active any subject of study. Example: Thomas Massey House, art partnership with Philadelphia Museum of Art



## **Intercultural Partnership:**

A partnership for the purpose of developing intercultural competencies, especially peer partnerships with other communities, in which cultural differences and similarities are explored through planned learning activities. Ideally, the partnership is driven by a goal-oriented project that builds teamwork and community across the groups. Example: Main Street Music & Dance Partnership, Chester East Side Ministries after school woodworking partnership (also a service learning partnership)



## **Intergenerational Partnership:**

A partnership for the purpose of developing intergenerational social skills and appreciation. The partnership is built around interactive experiences between students and community elders, or on mentoring relationships between older students and younger students, combined with reflection on the experience.

Example: Five-Day Preschool Hometown Senior Center partnership; Primary Circle "Who Are We?" Interviews, Main Circle-Preschool reading buddies

## **\*What is the difference between community service and social action?**

Community service meets a tangible need in the community, such as donating canned food to a food cupboard for hungry families, or planting trees to prevent erosion on a creek bank. Social action addresses social needs through working for changes in public policy and/or in altering existing power relations through democratic participation. Examples: working for an expansion of a publicly funded school lunch program for low-income children; learning how a local environmental group organized a voter referendum about preserving open space and how citizen participation influences how the preserved land is used. Community service learning partnerships are appropriate for all age groups; social action partnerships are usually most developmentally appropriate for older elementary school aged students.