PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

The Public Service Center (PSC) helps MIT achieve its mission of working wisely, creatively, and effectively for the betterment of humankind. Through our programs, we provide encouragement, advice, logistical support, and funding to help students engage in meaningful and effective public service work in the local community, throughout the United States, and around the world.

PSC Fellowships and Internships. PSC Fellows and Interns tackle a great variety of human and environmental challenges and their work has impressive positive effects on communities around the world. In addition, students are building their skills and reflecting on their experiences to enhance classroom learning. Students can work individually or as part of a team on projects during IAP, summer, and the academic year.

MIT IDEAS Global Challenge. Through this annual innovation and social entrepreneurship competition, students form teams to work with a community partner to design and implement innovative projects that improve the quality of life in communities around the world.

Community Service Work-Study. Students who qualify for Federal work-study are able to add to their work experience, earn a paycheck, and give back to the community as they assist nonprofit organizations with finding creative solutions to the problems they face. Community Service Work-Study is available throughout the academic year, as well as during summer and winter breaks.

CityDays. CityDays is a series of one-day volunteer opportunities that enable members of the MIT community to engage with the Cambridge and greater Boston community by devoting a few hours to volunteer service.

Freshman Urban Program. Students can help others while exploring their new neighborhood, learning about community challenges, and making friends at this week-long freshman pre-orientation program.

ReachOut. Students can help Cambridge children foster a love of reading and mathematics through this semester-long tutoring program.

Four Weeks for America. Students can inspire a love of science and math in kids from small rural areas or big inner cities while learning about educational issues and policy. Through this program, students spend IAP working with a Teach for America teacher in a classroom.

Alternative Spring Break. During PSC’s Alternative Spring Break students travel to various communities around the country to do service work accompanied by MIT staff members. This program enhances connections between MIT students and staff interested in doing service, while also helping them to engage with various communities and causes such as sustainability, community development, homelessness, hunger, and more.

LEAP Grants: Learn. Explore. Act. Prepare. LEAP Grants support MIT students’ domestic public service activities by providing funding that can help them carry out a service project such as a volunteer day or philanthropy event. Students can learn about service and social responsibility and build their skills to tackle a community challenge.

For further information, visit the website (http://web.mit.edu/mitpsc) or contact the PSC (psc@mit.edu) at 617-253-0742.