Building School-Community Partnerships

The successful service-learning project is a result of clear expectations and communication between school and community partner. As students or teachers reach out to community partners, it is helpful to raise the following:

Goals and Expectations
☆ What are the desired learning goals?
☆ What are the desired service goals?
☆ How does the proposed project meet the goals of each partner?
☆ What are the needs and expectations of each partner?

Resources and Responsibilities
☆ What resources does each partner (school and community) bring to the table?
☆ What will each partner do?
☆ What are the specific student responsibilities?

Preparation
☆ What additional knowledge - or training - will students need to carry out the project?
  How will this training be provided?
☆ Are there specific requirements for dress, behavior, tools? How will these be met?
☆ Is there site preparation involved? Who will be responsible for this?

Supervision and Liability
☆ Who will be supervising the project?
☆ What adult/student ratio will be required?
☆ Who assumes responsibility for recruiting - and training - additional adults, if needed?
☆ Will liability waivers be required? Who will provide these?

Youth Voice
☆ Will the project provide opportunities for youth voice? for student leadership?
☆ How might youth voice be addressed?

Reflection
☆ How will students reflect before, during and after the project?
☆ How will each partner participate with - or accommodate - student reflection?

Demonstration and Celebration
☆ How will students demonstrate what has been accomplished?
☆ How will each partner celebrate? Will it happen together?

Evaluation and Assessment
☆ How will we know when we have achieved our mission?
☆ How will each partner evaluate success?
☆ Who will be responsible for student assessment? Is there a specific role for the student? The teacher? The community partner?
☆ Does the project have the potential for future - or ongoing - opportunities?