

What are some ways you make your OSOTs interactive and engaging?

Suggestions from VISTA Supervisors

To learn about the community:

- We do a community scavenger hunt that involves using public transit
- Scavenger hunt to learn about the community
- We do a walking tour of the community and share information about the history
- We include a service learning activity (ie. food banks)
- We have them attend our workshops and learn what the community learns
- We attend Community Calendar Meetings that connect them to their project and the community
- Include them in meetings with partners/community members out of the office
- We are on a university campus so they take the tour with prospective students

To learn about your site culture:

- Tour of facilities and a visit to our member agencies
- All Staff lunch, partner visits to introduce new VISTA
- Introductions to each department
- VISTA job shadows for at least part of a day with all other agency employees
- We devote a day to team building and bonding activities!
- Members actively participate in staff meetings
- Social time with existing vistas
- Bringing in all staff members for icebreakers and communication activities
- Attend ceremonials / feasts together

To learn about the project:

- Role playing
- We propose case scenarios for discussion based on actual cases
- Have them create a project timeline with you
- Stakeholder discussions, site visits
- Field trips

To learn about a VISTA's strengths and goals:

- We have new VISTAs do assessments of their existing skills and learning styles
- We have them draw or make a diagram of what they understood they are going to do. I start off by asking them what their goals are for this year / ways they want to learn-grow
- StrengthsQuest
- StrengthFinder Assessment
- They work on a sheet called Learning Methods