

Ensuring Learning while Making Trips to the Field

Here are some concrete ways to ensure more learning during site visits. Which of these do you still need to consider?

- Assess expectations of the participants i.e. send a survey
- Find common ground between participants and the place
- Allow for time to reflect/ process what they've seen (with guiding questions) i.e. intentional placement of time for this
- Make time for personal journaling and reflection– solo time for this is important for learning
- Include team debrief/ feedback
- Engage learners with the subject matter through facts, experience, reflection and response
- Work to engage the heart, head, and hands/ attitudes, knowledge, and skills
- Prep beforehand!
- Know your audience
- Ask open questions and ways to engage with what they are seeing during the trip
- Provide highly detailed itinerary
- Share the “why” for the trip and location(s)
- Include pre- and post- trip work and learning in the design of the entire experience
- Do a thorough needs assessment as part of your planning
- Offer some pre-reading to participants so they know what to expect and look for
- Ask 1-2 guiding questions at the start of the trip that they can reflect on throughout the trip i.e. “How does what you are seeing deepen your understanding of *sustainable food systems*?” These questions can be on a handout or in a booklet with space for writing and reflecting.
- Use the travel time to prep or debrief i.e. “As we travel back to our hotel, turn to the person you are sitting beside and take the first 10-15 minutes to discuss what surprised you most about the visit. How did it push your thinking about sustainable food systems? What was especially important for you to hear today, for which you are grateful?”