



COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Community service is donating your time, energy, skills and talents to a specific cause in your community or region that benefits a larger group of people. Community service is an important and fun part of your educational experience. Through community service, you can directly impact your community by investing in something larger than yourself. In addition, your community service projects provide evidence of your commitment to serving others on college and scholarship applications, as well as enable you to make meaningful connections with your community members, meet new friends and gain transferrable skills for employment and life beyond high school.

VALID COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT GUIDELINES

Your valid community service project **SHOULD**:

- Be unpaid / non-credit bearing (not for pay, class credits or grades)
- Be performed for a non-profit or public agency
- Occur outside of regular school hours (*time logged during student lunch period is fine*)
- Benefit the community at large
- Enhance student learning
- Develop civic engagement skills
- Expose students to community issues and organizations
- Expand student's career knowledge and choice

Your community service project **SHOULD NOT**:

- Be related to fundraising activities
- Be performed as part of a school sport, dance or other student-centered event or activity
- Be tied to pay, class credit or grades
- Be court mandated
- Be part of a duty you already assume as an elected officer (ie: ASB officer, class council, club President, VP, etc.)
- Be part of a religious activity that promotes a particular faith or religion

All community service hours must be verified by an adult who provides immediate supervision while you are volunteering for the organization. The date, hours, activities and supervisor signature must accompany each entry on your community service log. Failure to have your hours verified by an adult site supervisor may result in forfeiture of some or all of your hours.

WHAT IS MEANINGFUL SERVICE?

Meaningful service projects should focus on supporting and improving your community and building relationships within it. When choosing a project, consider your interests and what qualities, skills and abilities you possess that can benefit your community at large.

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE VS. UNACCEPTABLE COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS

EXAMPLES OF ACCEPTABLE SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Raider2Raider
- Child care at school-sponsored or community events
- Living History Day
- NHS Blood Drive
- Environmental organizations (ie: Friends of Trees)
- Outdoor School
- Beautification of school grounds/parks/public spaces/trails
- Political campaigning not related to fundraising

EXAMPLES OF UNACCEPTABLE SERVICE ACTIVITIES

- Singing in your church choir or operating the sound system during church services (*as part of your normal family obligations on the weekend*)
- Mission trips (for the sake of proselytizing/converting others to a specific faith/religion)
- Babysitting/chores
- Paid employment
- Court-ordered community service
- Helping teachers clean classrooms/TA duties
- Band/Choir/Orchestra performances that constitute part of your class grade or credit

By performing and logging 250+ hours of valid community service activities (verified by your adult site supervisor/sponsor) throughout your high school career (between grades 9-12), you can earn a silver Extra Mile honor cord to wear at graduation.