



MONSANTO



High School Student-Volunteer Community Service Awards

Community Service Defined: Expected Questions

- **Where can community service hours be completed?**

Hours can be completed at any not for profit agency, nursing home, hospital, or any other organization approved by your high school. Hours will not be accepted that are done for a private business. Community service completed both within and outside the school year is acceptable.

- **Can students do community service by campaigning for an individual candidate or proposition?**

No. While there is great value in students becoming more civically involved, we do not want to mislead the community by having students campaign for any individual or political initiative. Students may volunteer their time by working for voter registration drives or other *nonpartisan, non-issue biased* general voter involvement activities.

- **Can students perform community service at their church or place of worship?**

Yes. Students are encouraged to find service sites with which they are already involved and are comfortable. However, we will not accept any hours that are during one's worship service time. (This includes participation in choir, ushering, A-V help, etc.) Acceptable hours include: Vacation Bible Schools, church picnics/dinners, service projects in the community, mission trips, general church maintenance, church school or church day care.

- **Can students volunteer at a daycare?**

Students may volunteer at a child or adult daycare ONLY if the daycare is a recognized non-profit agency through the IRS. Hours completed at licensed private daycares will be accepted. Daycare operations run at schools and churches are acceptable.

- **Can students perform community service during the school day?**

Students are allowed to do community service at school through established programs such as school-approved tutor and/or mentoring programs, such as the A+ program.

- **Can students do service on the High School campus?**

Yes. Students can participate in any of the programs approved by the High School. In addition, students can help with sports team management (50 hours max per school year), help with a play or musical or participate in major school projects, which are service related. Students are not allowed to do classroom assistance unless they receive prior approval. Regarding service-learning projects, students may count the hours if all of the following conditions exist: 1. the project is clearly defined as student-led; 2. the project started with an investigation of the needs of the local community; and 3. the project identifies improvement opportunities relating back to their class learning.

- **Is participation in a club considered community service?**

No. Club meetings, fundraisers and general activities do not qualify as approved community service. However, many of the clubs and extra-curricular activities at your High School may do service projects. Students have many opportunities to get involved with a variety of service

project activities! Generally any service project that is approved by the local high school counselor will be acceptable. Service projects such as food drives, toy drives, and home weatherization / renovation, as well as independent work on a Girl Scout Gold Award or Eagle Scout project are some examples.

- **Can court-appointed community service hours be counted for this student-volunteer award program?**

No. These community service hours will not be counted.

- **Where can students find opportunities for local service?**

SERVE.GOV is a new comprehensive clearing house of volunteer opportunities. As non-profits learn about its availability, register their service projects free, and post their volunteer needs, the “All for Good” search engine will be easy for school coordinators and student-volunteers to use to help find local opportunities for service.

- **Can students start-up their own local service projects and count those hours of actual community service?**

Yes. Students may find helpful tool kits on the SERVE.GOV site to “start-up” their own local service projects. They need to engage the help of a high school advisor for guidance and for certification of service hours provided.

For other questions, please contact any of the following commissioners:

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Students are encouraged to embrace the spirit of service by finding non-profit organizations in the community that need their help!