



## 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 or hospital. Hours will not be accepted that are done for a private business or individual. Students should check with an organization prior to beginning to ensure it is a 501 (c) (3) agency.

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

No. Service must be non-political in nature. While there is great value in students becoming more civically involved, we do not want to mislead the community by having students campaign for certain individuals. Students may volunteer their time by working for voter registration drives.

- **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 daycare ONLY if the daycare is a recognized non-profit agency through the IRS. Hours completed at private daycares and in-home daycares will not 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.

- **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 community service director will be acceptable. Service projects such as food drives, toy drives, and home weatherization / renovation 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.

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!**