

School Counseling Office
Haddam-Killingworth High School
Higganum, CT 06441



COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION STUDENT HANDBOOK



INTRODUCTION

The mission of Haddam-Killingworth High School is to provide a personalized and collective experience through which students are challenged to develop the knowledge, skills, and work ethic to contribute to a global society.

On page 2 of this handbook, you will find a sample menu of projects and placement sites which offers a wide variety of opportunities to help you select your community service hours. In no way are you limited to this list. If there is a special project or experience in which you will feel more comfortable and it is determined that this falls under the guidelines of community service, you should pursue this interest. REMEMBER THAT **YOU ARE URGED TO HAVE PRIOR APPROVAL** OF ANY COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE NOT LISTED IN THIS BOOKLET ***BEFORE*** YOU PUT IN THE TIME IF YOU WANT TO BE SURE THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE HOURS TOWARD THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENT. The validity of any questionable activity will be determined by the Principal or the Assistant Principal.

Remember, these lists can and will change from time-to-time. The best way to stay current with activities occurring is to listen carefully to the morning news at school and to check the Community Service bulletin board outside of the Counseling Office. Some of the activities will occur only once, so in order to gain the hours, you must be willing to participate at the time the project is activated. Additionally, you may accumulate as many hours as you wish from one or all of the areas towards the number of hours needed for the graduation requirement. While 30 hours of service are required, many students go much further often serving hundreds of hours. Select what best reflects your interests and values. Many colleges and scholarship programs use Community Service in determining merit money and awards.

School and community activities performed through high school organizations such as the National Honor Society, the Student Council, and S.A.D.D. may also be included only if the service goes beyond what is expected for membership of the organization.

"Community service" performed as a required penalty by the courts and/or school district is NOT acceptable as service for the graduation requirement.

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer service to the schools and community is understood to be the direct giving of one's talents, time, and energy to those in need, or for the common good so as to bring about a shared satisfaction of accomplishment which can be enjoyed by the student, the school, and the community.

- Working without pay for a business is **not** community service.
- Volunteering time to help a relative is **not** community service.
- Helping at the church fair **is** community service.



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SAMPLE OF SERVICE PROJECTS

CIVIC (General)

Soup Kitchens
Heart Association
Salvation Army
Special Olympics
Hospitals
Town libraries

SENIOR CITIZENS

Help with housework, yard work, or errands
Meals on Wheels
Sit with an elderly person while spouse is out
Nursing homes

COMMUNITY

Therapeutic Horseback Riding
Bloodmobiles
Junior Fire Department
Ambulance Association
Animal Shelters

***Students may begin to accrue their hours for community service after the last day of middle school.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE: WHAT IT IS AND IS NOT

CATEGORY	ACCEPTABLE: NOT-FOR PROFIT	UNACCEPTABLE
TRADITIONAL	Volunteer at a hospital	Babysitting for pay
	Involvement with any one of the recognized non-profit organizations	Tasks done at home as part of normal household routine
	Helper at a community library	
SCHOOL	Supervised peer tutoring	Working on the yearbook
		Volunteer work required for membership in school organization
CHURCH	Child care so that others may attend a meeting	
	Helping at church-sponsored community outreach activities, fairs, dinners, etc.	
COMMUNITY	Youth & Family Services	Working for profit-making business
	Scorekeeping for a little league game	Paid camp counselor
	Helping to set up or clean up at local state fairs	Working a booth for a profit-making company
INDIVIDUAL	Mowing lawn to help a neighbor who is disabled	Walking a neighbor's dog
	Animal Shelters – caring for animals	Mowing your grandparents' lawn

Attached is a form to document completion of community service. Additional forms are available in the Counseling Office and on our website. It is the **student's** responsibility to return the completed community service forms to the Counseling Office. Until **30 hours** of service are documented, the graduation requirement is not complete. **A STUDENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN GRADUATING SENIOR PRIVILEGES INCLUDING A PARKING SPACE, SENIOR PROM, SENIOR OUTING, ETC. UNTIL HE/SHE HAS COMPLETED AND DOCUMENTED THE 30 HOURS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION. (FORMS MUST BE TURNED INTO THE COUNSELING OFFICE FOR DOCUMENTATION.) THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.**

PARENTS, please DO NOT sign as the supervisor of your son's/daughter's community service form.

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