

Community Service: Policies and Helpful Facts

Each student must complete fifteen hours of Community Service each year. **Any senior who has not fulfilled his community service obligation will not receive his diploma** at graduation, nor will his final transcripts be sent out, until the service has been completed, verified, and approved.

DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE: Service is a genuine sacrifice on the part of the doer that involves compassion and extra effort; effort **over and above** an act of kindness for family or neighbors. We give our time and talent in service to our fellow men as representatives of Christ. It is done for people to whom we owe nothing, and yet, because of our obligations as Christians, we owe everything. "Ours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion must look out into the world." -St. Theresa of Avilla.

Service is working summer camp at Redwood School or sorting canned goods for Be Concerned or the Go Pantry. Service is umpiring softball games for the NKAR or assisting in the annual Special Olympic Track and Field Day, putting together toys and bikes for the Steinfeld Toy Foundation for distribution to children in inner city Covington, who otherwise would receive nothing for Christmas. CCH service is **NOT** babysitting, mowing our neighbor's grass, or cleaning out our grandparent's attic. These are things we should do for family or neighbors just because they are family or neighbors. Service should be done for non-profit organizations. Service done for for-profit organizations and businesses, more often than not, end up being organizations taking advantage of free labor, and so they will not be accepted as service hours without prior approval by the Community Service Director.

CCH Community Service is divided into two categories:

Non-Cov Cath hours refer to hours completed for the greater community (not for CCH). Helping children in Special Olympic events, tutoring grade school students, serving Mass in our parishes, mission trips, working vacation Bible schools, and working parish festivals are all examples of "non-Cov Cath hours". A minimum of 10 non-Cov Cath hours are required each year. All 15 hours of annual service required may be completed as "non-Cov Cath" hours.

Cov Cath hours are hours completed for CCH. Examples include working the football or soccer summer camps; helping with fundraisers like the Spaghetti Dinner, Back the Blue, or a golf outing; cleaning up or preparing for athletic or club events; or being part of the usher crew at the annual Cov Cath/NDA play. Up to 5 "Cov Cath hours" can qualify toward the 15 hours required annually, though each student is encouraged to do far more.

If you have any questions as to whether or not something qualifies for Cov Cath or non-Cov Cath hours, or whether something is considered service, see the definition of service in this handbook or have your son see the Community Service Director with questions. The program is designed to help CCH students experience compassion by working for those less fortunate. Helping friends, family or neighbors is not considered service unless there are extenuating circumstances.

All hours must be submitted online at MobileServe, through the student's account, **within 30 days** of having completed (the last day of) the service. After 30 days, the work may not be submitted to count toward your Cov Cath service hours.

Summer service hours - Hours completed in June, July and August need to be submitted by August 31.

All students are eligible for the award of a **varsity letter** for community service. Letters are awarded to any student who has completed **forty (40) hours of service in six (6) totally different activities for six (6) different agencies or organizations, all in the same school year** (June 1 through May 31). **At least thirty (30) of the total hours** (out of the 40 minimum) **must be categorized as "non-CovCath" hours**. See above for details. Second, third or fourth awards will be in the form of the "bar" with an embroidered service emblem.