



Richmond Public Schools

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Guidelines and Procedures

Community Service is an important component of an Open education. Each year students are expected to complete 30 hours of volunteer service with a non-profit organization for a total of 120 hours over four years. Many students far exceed the minimum requirements. *Due to the pandemic, the Class of 2024 is only required to complete 75 hours and the Class of 2025, 105 hours.*

Volunteer work helps students learn about specific needs within their community and is a reminder of our connectedness and interdependence. It exposes students to new people, new ideas, and new situations. Community service can also provide students with opportunities to build empathy and compassion for others while learning practical skills.

Students should take time to find NON-PROFIT organizations that match their interests and concerns. HandsOn Greater Richmond (www.handsonrva.org) is an excellent resource which lists current opportunities geared toward individual interests and age. In addition, opportunities are posted on the Open High Google Classroom as well as the weekly Open Announcements newsletter. Students may work with a single organization or multiple organizations that rely on volunteers. Examples of non-profits include public schools, public libraries, public gardens, homeless shelters, churches, most museums, the SPCA, City of Richmond summer camps, etc. Profit-making organizations are not eligible. There are some exceptions such as retirement homes if work is directly interacting with residents. If you are unsure about whether an organization is appropriate, connect with the Volunteer Coordinator.

Students are required to document their hours on the form on the back and obtain a signature from a representative of the organization. **Forms must be complete and turned in to the Volunteer Mailbox no later than May 1 to be considered for the current school year.** No hours will be accepted after this date.

Students are not eligible for the National Honor Society until a minimum of 60 hours of the community service requirement is fulfilled by the beginning of the junior year. Completion of 50 hours of voluntary participation (in addition to course requirements and attendance) also earns students the Virginia Board of Education's Excellence in Civics Education Seal for their diploma.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Brigette Newberry at bnewberr@vaschools.net.

