

## **National Honor Society Community Service Guidelines**

Community Service: Service is generally considered to be those actions undertaken by the student which are done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation (NHS Handbook).

Because NHS is an honor society, the Piper High School NHS Staff Advisory Committee believes that high standards of community service are appropriate. We wish to encourage our students to extend beyond the walls of the school building and experience a variety of community service. Our hope is that students will develop empathy and compassion and understand the need for social justice. With that in mind, the committee has set the following guidelines for community service.

1. Students will complete 30-hours of community service within one calendar year (January-January).
2. Community service must be from at least three different sources, with no more than 20 hours coming from one source.
3. Community service should be performed for an organization, not an individual.

### **Examples of community service that would be approved are as follows:**

Volunteering at food pantries, hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, etc.

Volunteering for local or national non-profit organizations such as UNICEF, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, United Way, Crosslines, Harvesters, etc.

### **Examples of activities that are not considered community service for the purpose of PHS National Honor Society:**

Cotillion (dance, practice, etc.)

Hours served during the school day

Participation in a competitive event in which there is a potential for an award/prize (5K, Eagle Scout, etc.)

*However, if you volunteer as a non-participant and the event is for charity, those hours would be appropriate, providing it is not a part of the Senior Project.*

Project Grad (benefits student directly, and parents are asked to pay or work)

Senior Project or any other activity that fulfills the obligation of a course

Working for free at a for profit company (Going to work with your parent but not accepting payment will not be considered community service)

**PathwayOS/Cover Sheet/ Reflections:**

- Students must record their service hours in PathwayOS and the supervisor for the event must verify community service hours by responding to the PathwayOS email.
- Students must submit a cover sheet with all activities for that organization and hours listed.
- Students must submit insightful written reflections for each activity. The more hours spent on the activity, the longer the reflections should be (think at least one significant paragraph for every 3 hours served). Reflections should address these questions:
  1. Why did you choose the activity?
  2. What was the most significant part of the activity?
  3. What did you learn about yourself as a result of the activity?
  4. Would you volunteer for this organization again? Why or why not?

These forms must be submitted to Mrs. McPherson by 3:00 pm on the second Friday in January, in this order:

- Cover Sheet
- Typed Reflection for corresponding activity. If you volunteered multiple times for one organization, type one reflection paper for that organization that includes all of your activities.

We hope you find your community service participation enriching and rewarding.