



Good Shepherd Catholic School

Community Service Booklet

Community Service

What is Community Service?

Community Service is volunteer opportunities for students to use their skills to benefit the community in which they live and learn (school, church/parish, neighborhood, world, etc). The students get to put religion and life lessons into practice in hope that they will become strong citizens and stewards to God's people and creation.

What are the benefits of Community Service Learning?

- For the incoming sixth graders, the community service clock begins on the first day of school.
- For returning seventh and eighth grade, students may receive credit for activities completed during summer
- Students receive an invaluable learning experience outside of the normal classroom setting.
- Service learning places curricular concepts in the context of real-world situations.
- Students analyze, evaluate, and synthesize these concepts using problem-solving skills, while at the same time helping their community.
- Students have the opportunity to explore a variety of opportunities.
- Students generate positive school-community relations and relations within the school.
- Students experience a good feeling of people helping people.
- Students will be prepared and fulfill Confirmation service requirements.

What types of activities constitute Community Service Learning?

- Activities which benefit the school or community, provided that the community organizations benefiting from the services are non-profit and/or one of following: hospitals, nursing homes, or educational activities.
- Religious organizations are permitted (ie The Kitchen Door, St. Vincent de Paul, Catholic Charities, Food Pantry, etc.).
- Activities which are not self-serving for a student or the student's family.
- Activities which are not tied to a grade (i.e. - Musical performances with school groups to such places as nursing homes will not count if the activity is tied to a grade in the music class.)
- Activities which render service to individuals who cannot otherwise provide for themselves (elderly, handicapped, etc.).

Note: If training is required by the organization, i.e. candy striping at a hospital, Humane Society, etc., the hours required for training may be included as credit for community service. Most organizations will not commit to train students unless the volunteer agrees to a substantial number of volunteer service hours.

What types of activities MEET the criteria of Community Service Learning?

- Participating in service projects as a member of a service club or community organization.
- Reading to the blind.
- Volunteering one's services at a local hospital, nursing home, etc.
- Volunteering one's services to individuals, i.e. senior citizens or the disabled.
- FSO projects and festivals
- Volunteering as a coach or instructor for nonprofit organizations such as Little League
- Volunteering for the Board of Elections.
- ALL tutoring (not paid); including tutoring done before or after school, or during lunch.

- Outreach programs of religious organizations and other non-profit organizations, which provide service to the poor, sick, needy, etc.
- Altar Serving (No more than 1 hour per altar serving event will be counted, no more than 5 hours per trimester will be accepted)
- Volunteering at a museum
- Mother's Helper (not your own family)
- Volunteering at events, i.e., marathons, walks, races, which benefit charitable organizations.
- Individual projects not specified in these examples may be accepted based on the criteria described on page 1.

What types of activities DO NOT meet the criteria of Community Service Learning?

- School clubs and co-curricular activities, with the exception of service clubs..
- Any activity for an organization which is not identified as non-profit, unless the activity is a hospital, nursing home, or education related.
- Community Service hours that are required by clubs; e.g., National Junior Honor Society.
- Hours signed for by a parent

Hours served beyond the minimum requirement for each trimester can be counted toward the next trimester.

How will Community Service Learning be incorporated into the curriculum?

Teaching students about service to others, and the invaluable learning experience offered through Community Service Learning, will be incorporated into religion lessons. Community Service logs will be collected at the end of each trimester for a religion test grade. See the grading scale that is attached.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

Step 1 Listen to the teacher's presentation about Community Service. Take the Parent Form home.

Step 2 Turn in the Parent Form.

Step 3 Choose appropriate Community Service activities for your interests. Collect a Community Service Form from your teacher.

Step 4 Perform the service project(s).

Step 5 Complete Community Service Form. This must include the signature of your project supervisor.

Step 6 Submit the completed Community Service Form to your teacher

A GUIDE for STUDENTS WHEN CONTACTING AGENCIES

Before Calling an Agency:

1. Decide what you would like to do.
2. Decide on the time you have available (day, month, hours, etc.).
3. Have a calendar, pen, and paper with you when you place the call.
4. Be professional when talking on the phone. (Be sure to dispose of chewing gum before placing a call, use manners, speak clearly, etc.)

TO HELP YOU WHEN YOU MAKE THE CALL:

It is a good idea to know what you are going to say.

The following is a simple guide:

“Hello. I am a student at (Name of School) . May I speak to the volunteer coordinator?” (use the name of the person if available).

“Good afternoon. My name is _____ and I am a student at _____. I am interested in volunteering my time to our community. I would like to talk to you about what I could do to help your organization. Is this a good time for you?”

From this point on, you will need to simply follow the lead of the other person. Be sure to find out:

- what services are needed,
- when the services may be performed, and
- who you should contact upon arriving at the site.

Activities that qualify for service credit

MUST:

- demonstrate volunteer, non-paid service.
- benefit an educational or a non-profit organization, school-community, parish community, etc.

Activities that qualify for service credit

MUST NOT:

- be self-serving for the student or the student’s family member
- be tied to a grade in any way.

When submitting hours of service the student must include the:

1. date(s) of service,
2. number of service hours provided, the time beginning and time ending service
3. name of the person or organization benefiting from the service provided,
4. explanation of how the service brought the Kingdom of God to earth,
5. description of the service performed, and
6. signature of the adult supervisor of the service. Hours signed for by a parent WILL NOT be counted.

The adult supervisor of the service is required to sign the Community Service Form indicating completion of the service as described on the form and the number of hours of service performed. The student is to submit this form to the Religion teacher during the academic year the service is provided.



Community Service Parent Form

Good Shepherd Catholic School has a Community Service program for students in grades 6 – 8. These students may participate in voluntary assignments and activities to serve organizations as well as individuals within the community. The goal of community service is to enhance the quality of life within the student's school and community. Community Service Learning combines instruction, 21st Century Skills, and voluntary participation in supporting activities or obtaining contribution of goods.

For the school year, students will use a Community Service form that allows students to record different instances of community service performed. While many activities do count for community service, there are some activities that do not. By signing this form, parents/guardians are acknowledging that their student is required to complete a minimum of 25 hours of service a year, that the service will be part of the religion grade, and that some activities are not allowed.

In summary, students must volunteer for a school, a non-profit agency, or help an individual who cannot help themselves. Activities tied to a grade, some sort of compensation, or a school sport in which you are participating or club does not count. If you have any questions, please see the Junior High Teacher. There is always a risk that students will volunteer for a worthy cause and find out later that it did not qualify within our guidelines. All final decisions for approval will be made by the Junior High Teachers and principal.

Please check off and sign below to acknowledge the terms of community service, including any location where community service may be completed.

____ I acknowledge that my son or daughter will be performing community service and understand that some community service activities may not qualify for a community service seal.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Signature

Student Name Printed



Community Service Hours Completion Form

Student's Name: _____

School Year: _____ Grade: _____

Type of service performed _____

Number of Hours Completed: _____ Date of Service: _____

Description of Service:

How did the service bring the Kingdom of God to Earth?

Supervisor's Signature: _____



Community Service Hours Completion Form

Student's Name: _____

School Year: _____ Grade: _____

Type of service performed _____

Number of Hours Completed: _____ Date of Service: _____

Description of Service:

How did the service bring the Kingdom of God to Earth?

Supervisor's Signature: _____