

Outstanding Community Service Students Receive 2025 John Kirby Simon '79 Community Service Award

Last week, the School recognized three students for their dedication to service, leadership, and community engagement with the prestigious John Kirby Simon '79 Community Service Award. Director of Community Service Melissa Koomsen presented the awards at School Meeting.

Recognizing Commitment to Service

Rhema Woolcock '28 has actively contributed to school life through Love Your Locs, celebrating diversity, and excelling in varsity wrestling, earning the James Baker Cornish Wrestling Award. Beyond campus, she has made an impact through various service initiatives, including tutoring at New Haven Reads, supporting seniors at Elim Park, and mentoring children at the Ulbrich Boys and Girls Club. Her dedication extends to Teach Wallingford, the Choate Veteran Support Group's Duty and Donuts initiative, and leading interactive science projects with the Biology Club at the Wallingford Public Library.



Lara Amer '27 is a member of Girl Up Choate, UNICEF, Interact, and Model UN, and works to uplift voices and foster meaningful conversations. Her involvement in The Brief as Academics and Club Editor has helped amplify student achievements. Lara's service commitment reaches beyond borders—she has volunteered with the Art Therapy Section at 57357 Hospital in Egypt and participated in the Global Travel Program: Peace is a Process in Northern Ireland. She mentors younger students, engages in tutoring, and through volleyball and Concert Orchestra, further enriches Choate's vibrant campus life.

Linda Elizabeth Porter '25 was recognized for her dedication to civic engagement and remembrance. A member of the Debate Team, Modern Agriculture Club, and Sociology and Anthropology Society, she has used her passion for inquiry to make a meaningful impact. Her work with Connecticut Foodshare and the American Red Cross highlights her commitment to addressing community needs. As Project Leader for the Choate Veterans Support Group, Linda has spearheaded new partnerships with House of Heroes, an archival research project honoring Choate alumni in the military, and hosting Duty and Donuts at the American Legion. Her leadership ensures that those who have served are remembered with dignity and respect.

A Legacy of Compassion and Leadership

The John Kirby Simon '79 Community Service Award continues to recognize students whose actions reflect a commitment to helping others, fostering education, and inspiring change.