

Eighth Grade Volunteer Project Student Information Sheet

In order to prepare our students for the requirements of high school and to become more service-oriented, all eighth grade students will be required to complete a volunteer project. This project will allow the student to complete with a group of peers or individually and with the assistance of their teachers. Deadlines will be set for the completion of various stages of the projects so that students will not wait until the last minute to finish it. Students will have the opportunity to present their projects to peers and parents in April through showcases.

Please read the following information, and have your parents sign the notification sheet. Turn it into your language arts teacher on August 19, 2025 .

ELA Common Core Standards Addressed Within This Project: W.8.4, W.8.6, W.8.10, L.8.2, L.8.1, L.8.2, L.8.2c, L.8.3, SL.8.1, SL.8.5 and SL.8.6

Project Groups:

- 1. Who can be in my project group?** Any eighth grade student within Mrs. Istamboulia's or Mrs. Naulls' language art classes.
- 2. How many students can be in a group?** Groups may consist of two to four students. You may choose to do your project independently if you wish.

Topics:

- 1. What can my project be about?** Your project must be service-oriented!!! Participating in community-service projects looks great on college scholarship applications or future job applications. More importantly, it will assist you in determining your passion for a particular philanthropic area. Remember your hours do NOT have to be completed within the La Mirada community.

Time Involvement:

- 1. How involved is this project?** We want you to spend a minimum of 15 hrs. participating in your service opportunity, plus time involved working on your reflection and presentation. **Each student MUST individually complete 15 hours of documented community service hours.**
- 2. What am I going to have to turn in?** Individually, you will complete a written reflection essay that should be approximately a page and a half (typed and double spaced) page in length. You can work on this with your group; however, your reflections should show individuality, and you **MUST** share your experience with regard to the project. Use the following outline for your paper:

Written Reflection (should be at least a page and a half in essay format (introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion) that contains correct grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization/500-800 words):

You or your group should decide on a title.

Brief description of your project

What inspired you to choose this project? What impact will it have on the community?

What did you learn from the project?

What were your strengths? Weaknesses?

How did your perspective on volunteering change?

What else do I have to do?

Individually or as a group, you will create a visual presentation that incorporates technology (Ex. Google slides, Canvas or keynote) for your project to present at Showcase Day.

When do I present this? On March 30, 2026 in your language arts class.

Am I going to receive a grade for this? Yes!! You will receive a grade for your hours, essay, verbal and visual presentation. This will be integrated in your language arts grade. This project is worth 200 points:

-50 points Verbal Presentations

-50 points Visual Presentations

-50 points Volunteer Hours

-50 points Written Reflection Essay

When do I get to work on this? All project work must be completed outside of school hours.

You will not receive class time to work on your project.

When is everything due? Everything will be turned in to your language arts teacher on March 30, 2025. We will be your mentors for your project, although you are encouraged to obtain feedback from your other teachers, as well.

Miscellaneous:

1. Where can I volunteer?

Websites to assist you with finding a place to volunteer:

www.cityoflamirada.org

https://www.norwalk.org/departments_services/human_resources/volunteer_opportunities.php

DoSomething.org

VolunteerMatch.org

www.urbanstreetangels.org

Here is a website to go to for ideas: www.teenlife.com

****If you are not working with an organization, you must propose your project to Mrs. Naulls or Mrs. Istambouljian for prior approval (ex. campus beautification, tutoring or reading to 6th graders, etc.).

VOLUNTEER PROJECT CONFIRMATION NOTIFICATION

I have received and read the instructions about the volunteer project. My student and I both know what is required (15 community service hours, written reflection essay, a visual presentation that incorporates technology and a verbal presentation). **All the following items are due March 30, 2026.**

Group Members (only if you are working with others):

Your Name:

Language Arts Teacher:

Student Signature:

Parent Signature: