

2026-2027 SJA Service Policy

The St. Joseph's Academy service program is a vital component of the faith development pillar of the school's mission statement. Our Catholic faith calls each student to serve the dear neighbor as an overflow of the love of God in them. "We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God' but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from Him: Whoever loves God must also love his brother." (1 John 4:19-21)

Jesus has identified himself with those most in need in saying, "Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me." (Matthew 25:45) The goal of the SJA service program is to foster an encounter with Christ in those most in need and a desire to sacrifice oneself for them with acts of charity and through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Students will form sustained interpersonal relationships with the dear neighbor that allow them to see all as created in God's image and likeness and to serve them through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

The SJA service policy states that freshmen and sophomores are required to complete 15 hours of service during the 2026-2027 academic year while juniors and seniors must complete 20 service hours. The 2026-2027 Freshman and Sophomore Service Directory and the 2026-2027 Junior and Senior Service Directory can be found on MySJA and the Service Hour Opportunity Teams Channel. Please review the revised policies before completing service hours. We recognize that the directories do not comprise an exhaustive list of opportunities available to SJA students. Students can participate in opportunities outside of those included in the service directories only after receiving written permission via email from the Campus Ministry Office at service@sjabr.org. All students will use their Mobile Serve account to log service hours. These accounts will be set up during Student Orientation. User guides for the website and cellular application can be found on the Service Hour Opportunities Team Channel. Parents, grandparents, and immediate family members cannot verify students service hours.

All service hours must be done through a non-profit agency or through a for-profit business, with prior written approval, that serves those most in need. Service performed through a for-profit business must be non-clerical in manner. Tasks such as filing, answering the phone, etc., will not be permitted as part of the service program. SJA and CHS club hours do not roll over at any time, and SJA and CHS club hours must be independent and separate of the SJA service program. SJA and CHS sports team hours do not roll over at any time and SJA and CHS sports team hours must be independent and separate of the SJA service program. Service hours completed at church on a Sunday may not impede a student's Sunday obligation to attend and be an active participant in Catholic mass or your faith tradition's church service.

Visiting with patients in nursing homes or hospice facilities does not need prior approval. All service hours must be done outside of normal school hours. Donations of any kind, including Sticker Sacks, are not eligible for the service program. However, SJA may offer a schoolwide donation opportunity for service hours. SJA reserves the right to limit the number of hours earned on mission trips; hours earned on SJA mission trips will be determined and applied after the trip is complete. This will ensure students receive accurate credit for the number of hours served. Overnight, residential summer camps are not permitted for any student's service hours.

The 2026-2027 service year for students returning to SJA will begin Tuesday, April 14, 2026, and end on Wednesday, April 7, 2027. Students who are new to SJA for the 2026-2027 school year can begin earning service hours on Monday, June 1, 2026, and end on Wednesday, April 7, 2027. Hours for all students must be verified by the supervisor no later than Friday, April 9, 2027. All service hours must be logged electronically in each student's school issued Mobile Serve account. Hard-copy verifications will not be accepted. Failure to complete service hours by the deadline will be examined on a case-by-case basis and may result in disciplinary action. Seniors must complete their service requirements in order to graduate from SJA, and underclasswomen must complete their service hours in order to take their final exams.

In conjunction with their senior retreat, members of the senior class participate in a day of service in the Baton

Rouge community. This experience serves as an opportunity for the class to give back to the community as a group. Students are assigned to a service site for this day. Senior Service Day is considered part of the senior retreat and is a requirement for graduation.

Please direct questions about service hours to the Assistant Campus Minister/Service Coordinator at service@sjabr.org.

2026-2027 Service Requirements by Grade Level

Class of 2027

Students will choose one agency whose primary focus is those most in need and will earn 20 hours from their chosen agency. Approved agencies can be found in the Junior and Senior Service Directory on MySJA and the Service Hour Opportunity Teams Channel. Students may only participate in opportunities outside of those included in the Service Directory after receiving written permission via email from the Assistant Campus Minister/Service Coordinator. Students wishing to earn the 50-hour service award must obtain 30 additional hours from their chosen agency or any of the approved agencies included in the Junior and Senior Service Directory whose primary focus is those most in need. Please note, event set up and concessions will not receive approval for any service hours.

Class of 2028

Students are required to earn 20 hours from agencies whose primary focus is those most in need. Approved agencies can be found in the Junior and Senior Service Directory on MySJA and the Service Hour Opportunity Teams Channel. Students may only participate in opportunities outside of those included in the Service Directory after receiving written permission via email from the Assistant Campus Minister/Service Coordinator. Students wishing to earn the 50-hour service award must obtain 30 additional hours from the same approved list of agencies in the Junior and Senior Service Directory whose primary focus is those most in need. Please note, event set up and concessions will not receive approval for any service hours.

Class of 2029

Students are required to earn 15 hours. Approved non-profit agencies can be found in the Freshman and Sophomore Service Directory on MySJA and the Service Hour Opportunity Teams Channel. Students may only participate in opportunities outside of those included in the Service Directory after receiving written permission via email from the Assistant Campus Minister/Service Coordinator. Students wishing to earn the 50-hour service award must obtain 35 additional hours from the same approved list of agencies in the Freshman and Sophomore Service Directory.

Class of 2030

Students are required to earn 15 hours. Approved non-profit agencies can be found in the Freshman and Sophomore Service Directory on MySJA and the Service Hour Opportunity Teams Channel. Students may only participate in opportunities outside of those included in the Service Directory after receiving written permission via email from the Assistant Campus Minister/Service Coordinator. Students wishing to earn the 50-hour service award must obtain 35 additional hours from the same approved list of agencies in the Freshman and Sophomore Service Directory.

Service Exclusions

The handbook policy clearly articulates what counts towards service program hours. Items listed below ***do not*** count towards the SJA Service Program. This list is not all-inclusive and is subject to change at any time.

- a. Sticker Sacks
- b. Donations of any kind, which includes, but is not limited to, buying, preparing, and delivering food to a shelter.
- c. Fundraising
- d. Job Shadowing

- e. All work at Friends of the Animals, Cara's House, Cat Haven, Dante's Hope, etc.
- f. Fostering animals
- g. Neighborhood homeowner's association events and pools; i.e., Tara, Country Club of Louisiana, etc.
- h. Club sports teams and pools
- i. Political campaigning
- j. Any non-SJA/CHS summer camp must have written approval from the Assistant Campus Minister/Service Coordinator before a student volunteers. SJA's Sizzling Summer and Summer at CHS do not need pre-approval.
- k. Overnight, residential summer camps are not permitted for any student's service hours.
- l. Open House for students working for bonus points, ambassador points or any other requirement.
- m. Babysitting
- n. Any part of the student's own sacramental preparation including but not limited to sacramental requirements (i.e. Confirmation retreats, service hours, etc.).
- o. Mission trips sponsored by for-profit agencies. If your mission trip is sponsored by a non-profit or your church that is not SJA, you must seek prior approval from the Assistant Campus Minister/Service Coordinator. Hours earned on mission trips will be determined and applied after the trip is complete.
- p. Hours should be completed on a service site and no hours can be completed virtually or at home.
- q. SJA and CHS club hours do not roll over at any time and must be independent of the SJA service program.
- r. SJA and CHS sports team hours do not roll over at any time and must be independent of the SJA service program.