

COMMUNITY SERVICE

GUIDELINES

Community service is defined as **to volunteer aid or assistance to a non-profit organization in a particular district.** This could include volunteer services provided by scout troops and charitable organizations, among others.

Good examples of community service are: helping out at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter, volunteering your time to help out in a retirement or nursing home, building houses for Habitat for Humanity, volunteering at the local Salvation Army or Red Cross, participating in walks/runs to benefit non-profit organizations like for cancer research, etc.

Fundraising:

Community service hours may not be used to raise money, except for fundraising* projects by non-profit organizations such as the Lion's Club Walk for Sight, Relay for Life AIDS Walk, Breast Cancer Awareness, Drunk Driving Awareness, etc. Selling tickets to raise money for a graduating class's funds is not considered community service.

After School Activities/Meetings:

Community service hours will not be awarded for projects previously assigned for academic credit. For example: an athletic trainer may not receive community service hours for attending football games or a choir member may not receive community service hours for singing with the school choir for any function. **If a student volunteers his or her time for a specific class in his or her schedule, it is not considered valid community service hours.** No community service hours will be awarded to students volunteering their time to a class that is in their current school schedule. For example: volunteer musicians for the school musicals, videoing plays and other events for MaVision, attending after-school meetings for organizations of which they are members, etc. However, staying after school to help tutor fellow students, or being scheduled for cross-tutoring in your school schedule for a full semester is approved for community service hours.

Church/Religious Church Groups:

Being active in your church is not considered community service. Playing an instrument in the church band every Sunday or being an altar boy/girl every Sunday is not community service. Mission trips are not community service unless community service was the objective of the mission. For example, a mission trip put together to help build houses for a less fortunate neighborhood or family would be considered valid community service. Helping sort donated clothes at church to be contributed to a charity later is community service.

Volunteer chores for friends or family will not be considered as community service hours. Helping out family in the office or business is also not considered community service.

**Fundraiser organizations must qualify as a charitable organization under tax exempt guidelines. If a contribution to the organization is tax deductible, then time spent on behalf of the organization will be accepted.*