

Service Information for Freshmen

As part of your schooling, you are required to do 10 hours of service. These hours can be done giving informal service to others. The idea or emphasis for this year is to understand service in a broader sense and to understand the need for service in many everyday ways.

There are no limits to what you can do for service hours this year. The emphasis, however, is on informal service. For example, babysitting for your cousins or nieces/nephews, helping elderly neighbors rake leaves in their yard, helping your grandma clean out her closet, etc. These are simple ways for you to help that have tremendous benefits for those you are helping. There is only one guideline:

You cannot get any monetary benefit from the service you perform
(example: not getting paid for babysitting or cleaning the yard)

Here I've outlined a step-by-step process to get your hours done in an effective, thorough way so that all hours will count.

Step 1- Arrange with someone to do the service (your neighbor mentions she could use some help around the house since visitors are coming on Saturday).

Step 2- Come get a Service Credit Slip from Mrs. Donovan in room 206.

Step 3- Fill in the Credit Slip completely, including a contact phone number for the supervisor (person you are doing the service for).

Step 4- Do the service. ☺

Step 5- Have the supervisor fill in the number of hours you worked, and have them sign the slip.

Step 6- Turn in the completed slip to Mrs. Donovan in room 206. You must hand the slip to her personally, and watch her stamp 'Received' on your credit slip for it to be valid, then keep your carbon copy. This is the only way to prove that you performed the service hours if an accounting mistake is made.

Step 7- Turn in all your service hours by the due date! (At least **the first five are due no later than Friday, January 14**; the rest are due by **Monday, May 23**) To get a satisfactory for 2nd semester all 10 hours must be done.

Step 8—Come back to the office and check in to make sure all your hours have been counted.

***Don't leave slips on the desk in the office!!! You must watch Mrs. Donovan stamp your credit slip as 'Received' and take your copy for the hours to count!!!

Now, some questions you might have—*What if I do service at a nursing home? Does that count?* Of course that counts! We are just offering this year an opportunity for informal service to ease into the idea of service. *What if my soccer team is working at the concession stand to raise money for our team? Does that count?* Well, I would consider that a benefit to you. Even though you, yourself will not be walking home with the money in your pocket, there is a monetary benefit to you in the way of your team equipment, events, etc. I would not count that. *What if I did a bunch of service this summer? Do those hours count?* Yes, there are many worthwhile opportunities to get your service hours done during the summer. They just need to fit into the criteria for Freshman service hours. *What happens if I don't get all five hours done by January 14?* If you don't get your 5 hours done by January 16, you will receive an 'U' on your report card under 'Service', meaning it was 'unsatisfactory' for the semester. *Can I turn in my credit slips to my Religion teacher?* Not if you want to get credit for them! ☺ All credit slips must be given to Mrs. Donovan for a 'Received' stamp. *What do I do if I have questions about service once school starts?* Come see Mrs. Donovan in the room 206 and ask her.

All in all, we hope that by doing service, you will learn how rewarding it can be and how interdependent we are, as humans. In order to make this world a better place, and to answer the call that Jesus made to us, we need to serve the least among us. Good luck and good service!!

There will be a significant change to the importance of satisfactorily completing the service hour requirement each semester starting with the 2010/2011 school year. Successful completion of your service hours allows you to remain a student in good standing and enables you to be eligible for special appointments, awards and recognition. Students who serve as class officers, student body officers, encounter team and crew, retreat small group leaders and students who are being considered for special awards or privileges may be asked to step down or not considered if they have not received a Satisfactory for service hours.