

## **Community Service Guidelines**

Dallas Christian School requires that each high school student complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service for each year enrolled in high school. The community service requirement for graduation is designed to help students learn servant leadership in the way of Christ. In community service, we look for opportunities to help others without the expectation of recognition or compensation in any form. Through community service efforts, we seek to help others and exemplify a Christ-like heart of a servant as described in Luke 14.

While the types of activities that will be given credit for community service have expanded this year, many noble services provided for others will not qualify under the school's guidelines for community service hours. The spirit of community service is to help those less fortunate than ourselves and those who cannot pay us back.

Our hope, prayer, and mission is to instill within each student a love for Christ and a genuine servant's heart. We hope that you will develop a love for serving others and that the 25 required hours per year is merely the floor and not the ceiling of a student's benevolence.

The following pages outline detailed guidelines, give specific examples of satisfactory community service activities, and describe the procedure for completing community service.

## SPECIFIC GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. The student cannot be paid for the service provided; any compensation for a service automatically disqualifies the service for credit.
2. Any service performed for an individual must have prior approval from the principal.
3. Credit for service provided will be given on a minute-for-minute basis (i.e., 1.5 hours of service equals 1.5 hours of credit).
4. Transportation to and from service projects will not be considered in the total hours served.
5. Examples of common community service activities include volunteering at the following:
  - Soup kitchens
  - Homeless shelters
  - Retirement/nursing homes
  - Habitat for Humanity
  - Salvation Army
  - Red Cross
  - Special Olympics
  - Professions giving pro bono services to the poor or disadvantaged
6. There are a number of service opportunities within the Dallas Christian School community that are of great value:
  - PTO Carnival volunteer
  - DCS Partnership Dinner volunteer
  - DCS Auction volunteer
  - Assisting a DCS teacher [with principal approval, for a single student, for a specific project, and performed outside the school day]
  - Tutoring other DCS students [with principal approval, performed on campus, supervised in an open space]
  - DCS summer sports camps [student will receive credit for 50% of the time served as a counselor in the camp]

7. There are service opportunities within a student's church:
  - Mission trips [with authorization of church minister]
  - VBS volunteer
  - Workdays for church campus for the community
  - Ministries to the disadvantaged
  - Services performed during worship assemblies, such as babysitting in nursery or signing for hearing impaired individuals [students will receive credit for 50% of the time served as a volunteer for services during worship assemblies]
  
8. There are a number of service opportunities for civil organizations in the local communities. Students are encouraged to research opportunities to volunteer for civil organizations. The Volunteer Center of North Texas is a good resource for ongoing opportunities for service ([www.volunteernorthtexas.org](http://www.volunteernorthtexas.org)). Opportunities for service may be available within the following civil organizations:
  - Fire department volunteer
  - Police department volunteer
  - Pet shelter volunteer
  - Hospital volunteer
  - Local library volunteer

The examples provided in these Guidelines for Community Service are not intended to be comprehensive. If a student questions whether any community service activity would receive credit, he or she is encouraged to contact the high school principal or secretary. The high school principal is the final authority on matters pertaining to community service.

## PROCEDURE FOR COMPLETING COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. Choose an activity that falls under the guidelines for acceptable or community service or seek approval.
2. Pick up a community service form in the high school office. You may also print the online version from the Dallas Christian website.
3. Fill out the top portion with your student information and that of the organization.
4. Perform your community service and keep track of the hours of service.
5. Complete the remainder of the form. Have a supervisor write down the hours volunteered and sign the form. The form will not be accepted without a signature and phone number from the supervisor.
6. Turn in the completed form to the high school office. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.