

What Counts as Community Service

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community service hours are hours spent during the year in work which directly benefits either (1) people experiencing poverty, discrimination, abuse, poor health, old age, youth, and/or physical-mental limitations or (2) the protection of animals or the environment for which an individual does not receive financial compensation. NHS defines service as “Work done with or on behalf of others without any direct financial or material compensation.”

Algoma High School Chapter of the National Honor Society requires 12 community service hours per year. A maximum of 6 hours for each activity will be counted toward individual requirement of 12 hours; however, the total hours for an activity will be counted toward the yearly community service award hours.

If you have any concerns about what is acceptable, please contact Ms. Kulm or any of the faculty council. Remember, all activities are on non-school time.

COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS: GUIDELINES

Acceptable Hours

- Coordination of fundraising activities and/or services performed for day care centers, retirement homes, animal hospitals, nature parks or other non-profit organizations will count as volunteer service hours. (fundraising alone does not count) examples: Shanty Days Optimist tent, Red Barn, Halloween Walk
- Hours spent coaching youth sports count as service hours.
- Tutoring when sponsored by a community organization.
- Summer School Teacher’s Aide – time spent helping students only (not prep time)
- Teaching youth worship classes.

Limitations on Community Service Hours

- **Parents cannot sign for their children.**
- For performances (dance, theatre, music), individuals will receive service hours for the time of the actual performances only. Hours are not awarded for rehearsal, set-up, or travel.
- All youth group or church activities must be service to a community in order to receive credit.

What Does Not Count?

- Fundraising for clubs or organizations. For example (car washes, cookie sales, bake sales). Fundraising will only count as service hours if the activity is created specifically to

address identified community service needs/ group as defined above. Just donating/collecting money does not count.

- Volunteer work done solely to promote a particular religious or political point of view such as proselytizing or campaigning for a party candidate does not count as volunteer service hours.
- Helping family, friends, or neighbors. (Chores, shoveling, cutting the lawn, running errands). It is your obligation as a friend or family member to help out.
- Managing or being on an athletic team, chorus, band, and participating in the school play are considered school activities and do not meet the definition of service to the community.
- Babysitting for a neighbor, day care, or at church (unless volunteering for a non-profit organization such as VIP)
- Contributions such as prom gowns, books, soda tabs, coats, food, and toiletries. There is one exception, blood for the American Red Cross (maximum three hours).
- Activities that take place during a normal worship service such as ushering, participation in choir, playing music for a service, song-leading, being an acolyte, or other worship activities.
- NHS group project will not count toward individual hours because it is the required group project for the year. Attendance is required and recorded at the time. Example: Christmas Shoebox Project.