



WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Community service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others. It is often done near the area where you live, so your own community reaps the benefits of your work. **You do not get paid to perform community service! Community service can help any group of people in need:** children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, English language learners, and more. It can also help animals, such as those at a shelter, and it can be used to improve places, such as a local park, historic building, or scenic area as well. **Community service is often organized through a local group**, such as a place of worship, school, or non-profit organization. You can also start your own community service projects. A healthy community works to protect its citizens and prevent negative outcomes for its most vulnerable members.

There are hundreds of ways to participate in community service, depending on your skills and interests. Some common community service examples include:

- **Working with schoolchildren:** Tutoring children after school, collecting school supplies to donate, planting a school garden.
- **Working with senior citizens:** Visiting and assisting residents of a retirement center, delivering meals to senior citizens, driving them to appointments.
- **Improving the environment:** Holding a recycling contest, planting trees, creating a new trail at a nature center.
- **Helping low-income people:** Passing out food at a soup kitchen, collecting used clothes to be donated, making first aid kits for homeless shelters.

Hours Not Acceptable for Community Service

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| ➤ Family related activities | ➤ Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation** |
| ➤ Hours compensated financially | ** Activities sponsored by these organizations that benefit the community <u>may be</u> acceptable (i.e. working in a soup kitchen, community cleanup, health fairs, & festivals, clerical support for social service activities) |
| ➤ Hours tied to school activities where grades, extra credit or awards are involved | |
| ➤ Court adjudicated service hours | |
| ➤ Fostering an animal in the home | |
| ➤ Donations (Locks of Love, blood) | |
| ➤ Athletics | |