

Community Service Guidelines

To graduate from the Ocean Beach School District, a student must complete 20 hours of community service during high school. They must complete these hours before they can begin their Job Shadow experience.

Steps for Students:

Find a community need and plan to help meet that need.

1. Obtain a community service form and fill out the top of the form.
2. Obtain signatures from your parent/guardian and your advisor.
3. Complete your service project.
4. Obtain signatures from an adult who witnessed you doing your project.
5. Answer the reflection questions on the back of your service form.
6. Turn the completed form in to Mrs. Sampson in the main office.

Steps for Advisors:

When a student brings you a Community Service Form,

1. Make sure the student has completed the top portion of the form.
2. It is preferred that students get parent/guardian approval before you sign the form; however, there are times when you might sign before the parent/guardian. Both signatures must be on the completed form.
3. Use the litmus test for service projects to determine if the project can be used to fulfill the student's requirement. Even one "yes" answer means the student must pick another project to fill their requirement.
4. Sign the form if it meets the necessary criteria.

"Litmus Test" for Approval of Service Hours:

The service project should be denied if you can answer "yes" to any of the questions below.

- Is the student receiving money from this service directly (payment)?
- Is the student receiving credit for a class for doing this service?
- Is the student receiving money indirectly such as a donation to the student's club or group that will be used by the student?
- Is the student related to the person receiving benefit from the service?
- Service projects should target a community need. Ask yourself: Does this project benefit the community or someone in our community that needs assistance?

Community Service FAQs

How can a student obtain a Community Service Form?

Forms can be found in the main office and in Ms. Huntley's room. Forms can also be found online at www.willapabay.org/~huntster/huntley.htm.

Can a student get community service for working at a sports camp or other event that raises money for their team or club?

No. The student is indirectly being "paid" for this time as their team or club will be receiving direct benefit.

Can a student get community service hours for service they performed without prior approval?

Yes. We prefer that the student completes the pre-approval process before completing the service project; however, sometimes opportunities occur and a student cannot (or does not) obtain prior approval. If you agree that the project meets the specifications, the parents agree that the project can be allowed, and an authorized adult has stated that the project occurred, the student can gain credit.

Can a student earn community service hours before their freshman year begins?

Yes. A student can begin earning high school community service hours as soon as their last middle school class has ended. Several of our students have completed their community service requirement during the summer before their freshman year.

Can a student earn community service hours for helping a relative who does not live with them?

No. Family is family – even third cousins.

Can a student earn community service hours for helping a relative if other non-relatives also benefit?

Yes. Helping coach a youth team, teaching Sunday school, or babysitting a group of neighborhood children for free may benefit your own cousins or brothers and sisters, but it also benefits the non-relative children on the team or in the group.

Can a student earn money or credit for doing community service?

No. The student doing the service should only benefit through the warm feeling in their heart and the sense of accomplishment for making our community stronger.