CCHS Community Service Definition and Guidelines

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'"

Matthew 25: 34-36

DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

CCS Definition: **Community Christian School defines community service as an unpaid activity that addresses an identified social or civic problem in the school or community.** Community Service should seek to lighten the burden of another (Galatians 6:2), to address an injustice in the world (Isaiah 1:17, Psalm 82:3, Micah 6:8), or to comfort the poor in spirit (Matthew 25:36, Matthew 5:3). **Community Service must be aimed at assisting persons beyond the student's immediate circle of family and friends and must not provide a significant benefit to the student such as financial compensation, academic credit, or a trade of services.**

This can include serving at your church, helping another student with academic work (for free), or working without pay at a for-profit agency (as long as it's not for academic credit, with the exception of service-learning classes). Other common activities include volunteering at an animal shelter, helping out with intramurals, or volunteering at a summer camp.

COMMUNITY SERVICE REPORTING

Service performed as part of a CCHS Leadership event is automatically recorded by the Registrar.

Any **community service performed independently must be reported to the Guidance office using the CCS Out-of-School Community Service Hours form** (found on the Guidance website), which requires the student to reflect on the experience and which must be signed by all of the following: a site or event supervisor (cannot be a family member), a parent, the student, and the guidance counselor. After approval by the Guidance Counselor, the Registrar will enter these hours on student transcripts.

A student may begin earning community service hours for high school (such as those required for the Bright Futures scholarships) the summer before freshman year.

ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION

Students may engage in direct, indirect, or advocacy service activities. Ideally, the student would engage in all three types of service throughout his/her high school career.

- **Direct service** involves face-to-face contact with service recipients, such as tutoring other students, serving meals at a homeless shelter, or working with the elderly in a nursing home.
- **Indirect service** involves performing a service without having face-to-face contact with the recipients. Usually resources are channeled to help alleviate a problem. Examples include food and clothing drives, marathons, fundraisers, or environmental projects.
- **Advocacy** involves educating others about a particular social problem, with a goal of eliminating the cause of that problem. Examples include writing letters to legislators or editors, preparing and displaying posters to an identified audience, or creating educational materials for other target groups.

Community service activities . . .

- must **not be compensated** with money, goods, or services.
- should **directly address identified social problems** in the school or community in areas such as health, education, environment, or public safety.
- may be **performed at school or in the larger community**. Activities performed at school should be designed to meet greater needs in the areas of health, education, environment, or public safety identified within the school.
- must be composed of **at least one (1) hour of engagement in the same activity/community**. This can be in one day or over several days/weeks/months, but the idea is that you should be making a significant investment in the identified community of need such that you can write a detailed reflection about your impact.
- may include, in addition to the actual service, **up to 2 hours of training** (if required prior to the actual service) or **up to 3 hours of rehearsal time** for every hour of performance time.

Activities that will <u>not</u> be approved for community service include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Any activity that discriminates on the basis of race, color, or national/ethnic origin.
2. Any activity that compensates a student with money, goods, or services.
3. Any activity rendered as a prerequisite for employment.
4. Any activity that is performed as a result of disciplinary action taken by the school or courts.
5. Any activity that is required for a class or for which a student receives academic credit (with the exception of service-learning classes).
6. Any service rendered for a student's friends or family (or family business).
7. Attendance at self-improvement workshops or conferences.
8. Participation as an athlete in school sports/athletics or in regularly scheduled school drama, band, or chorus performances, festivals, or competitions (unless the performance is specifically to benefit the poor in spirit, such as at a nursing home, hospital, etc.).

EXAMPLES AND DISTINCTIONS

Will most likely count:

Will not count:

Will most likely count	Will not count
Volunteering with an established agency, either profit or non-profit such as Red Cross, Salvation Army, homeless shelters, etc.	Mowing a neighbor's lawn (even without pay), helping an elderly person with groceries, etc.
Volunteering at a nursing home or hospital to provide companionship or entertainment to the residents	Spending time with your grandparent
Volunteering at a local library or animal shelter	Fostering an animal in your home
Performing physical labor without pay to materially aid people in need as part of a mission trip or service project	Performing physical labor as a family responsibility or to make restitution, formally or informally
Academic assistance that is unpaid, such as teaching ESL or literacy skills, or tutoring underprivileged children after school, etc.	Tutoring for pay
Volunteering at a summer camp	Working for pay at a summer camp
Childcare for non-family members without pay	Babysitting for friends and/or family (or for pay)
Performing at a nursing home or hospital specifically to provide entertainment and enrichment for the poor in spirit	Artistic endeavors including concerts, rehearsals, plays, recitals, exhibits, etc.
Volunteering at a fundraiser or other event to benefit a non-profit organization or to donate directly to those in need	Attending a fundraiser or other charity event
Organizing, planning, or coordinating a drive, collection, or fundraiser for a non-profit organization or for donation to the needy	Donations including canned food, blood, locks of love, money, etc. that do not require significant investment of time
Providing childcare, manual labor, or other assistance at a church or participating in a service-based event or activity with a group a church	Attending a Bible study or church group for your own enjoyment or (spiritual) benefit
Volunteering to organize, facilitate, set up, or clean up for a charitable event	Attendance at self-improvement or spiritual development workshops or conferences
Athletic coaching without pay for a non-profit organization (school, YMCA, etc.)	Participation in school extra-curricular activities, clubs, athletics, or recreational leagues, or in competitions including history and science fairs
Church participation including praise team, acolyte, greeting, nursery, teaching a Bible study, teaching Sunday School, etc.	Attending a worship service or other church function
Helping a sibling, friend, or classmate with academic work for at least one hour	Studying or doing homework together with a friend or peer

Is this activity community service?

1. Does the activity contribute to the growth, well-being, comfort, happiness, or social cohesion of someone beyond your immediate circle of family and friends?

   NO – this is <u>not</u> community service   YES – go on to the next question

2. Are you receiving any kind of compensation for the work, including goods and services?

   NO – go on to the next question   YES – this is <u>not</u> community service

3. Is this activity required as part of a school assignment or as the result of a disciplinary infraction?

   NO – go on to the next question   YES – this is <u>not</u> community service

4. Have you spent a minimum of one (1) hour investing in this project, community, or activity?

   NO – this will not count as community service   YES – this is may be community service

POTENTIAL IN-SCHOOL HOURS EARNED AT CCS

Leadership Program Service Hours (automatically recorded) for each level of participation:

EVENT	TIER 1	TIER 2	TIER 3	Service Hours
Orient/Leadership Camp	Yes	Yes	Yes	0
Immersion Week	Yes	Yes	Yes	16
Middle School Retreat	No	Optional	Yes	12
Senior Leader Training	No	No	Yes	0
Winter Expedition	Optional	2 of 4 required	2 of 4 required	8
Vision Quest	No	Yes	Yes	0
Mission Trip	No	1 of 2 required	1 of 2required	64
Optional Trips (Lavonia)	No	Optional	Optional	16