

COMMUNITY SERVICE

“Citizen service is the very American idea that we meet our challenges not as isolated individuals but as members of a true community, with all of us working together. Our mission is nothing less than to spark a renewed sense of obligation, a new sense of duty, a new season of service...”

President Bill Clinton

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead

SERVICE REQUIREMENT

Each middle school student will be required to perform **3(three)** hours of volunteer service each trimester. *Service to others gives students a chance to get involved, to support the causes they believe in, and to become stakeholders in their communities.*

HOW TO FIND THE RIGHT SERVICE FOR YOU

If you are looking for a place to volunteer but don’t know where to begin, just check out your local hospitals, nursing homes, non-profit organizations, libraries, associations, social service organizations, and family and friends. Volunteer opportunities abound, and your job is to find the right one for you.

Before you step out the front door to find the right opportunity, you need to be honest with yourself and ask the following questions:

- How much time can you give?
- What hours of the week are best for you?
- Are you able to travel a distance, or will you need something close to home?
- Do you enjoy working with people, or would you prefer to be behind the scenes?
- Are you a creative person, or are you a more cut-and-dry, practical kind of person?
- What are your top qualities?
- What are your skills and talents?

In order to truly give to others, you must take an inventory of what it is you have to give. It is important not to pressure yourself to do something that is not meant for you. While some students might feel comfortable working with small children, others may not.

A personal connection to a cause, whether through a personal experience or a friend or relative, is the most important reason why people get involve with a particular organization or issue.

Once you have taken a personal inventory, take the time to do some research on organizations

or opportunities that will be a good fit for you. Use all the resources available to you. First check with family and friends, then look in the yellow pages or on the internet for service organizations that are involved in the kind of work that you can get excited about.

Be creative in seeking the service work that is right for you. You can ask a librarian for a book on national associations that have volunteer positions. However, you do not have to work for a national organization. There may be opportunities for service work in your own neighborhood.

** Once you have decided on where you would like to volunteer, have a parent or guardian check it out as well to make sure that it will be a safe and meaningful experience for you. Check with Brad as well to make sure it meets the service criteria.**

If you begin your volunteer work and the atmosphere is not right for you, or your talents and skills are not really being used, you may want to look for another place to serve.

Whether you would like to volunteer at a zoo, an animal shelter, a hospital, a library, or simply help a elderly neighbor shop for food, know that your time and energy is infinitely valuable in a world of need.

“The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service to others.”

Ghandi