



**Service Hours Program
2009-2010**

Whitinsville Christian High School

Service Hours Coordinator: Mrs. Heidi Williams

Why a Service program?

Service is an important part of a comprehensive Christian education. Service provides the opportunity to apply what has been learned in the home, at church, and in the classroom. Some of the inherent benefits include:

1. Obedience to God's command

It is the Lord's command that we serve one another in love. "You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13-14). As followers of Jesus Christ, not only do we learn the Word of God, but we have an active faith that seeks to serve others.

2. Expression of Love for God

Service is an expression of our love for God as we love our neighbors. "Serve the Lord wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free." (Ephesians 6:6-7)

3. Development of Christian Maturity

Service opportunities help develop Christian maturity and provide venues for the Lord to teach us more about Himself and the Christian life. In the process of serving, we learn more about ourselves, our interests, and our strengths and weaknesses. This knowledge is critical if we are to develop into mature Christians seeking God's will and plan for our lives.

4. Sharing of Individual Gifts

In I Corinthians 12, the church is compared to a body, and each member has a different function or gift. These gifts are to be developed and used for the good of the body. "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (I Peter 4:10)

5. Encouragement of leadership skills

Scripture says 'whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant: and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be a slave of all.' (Mark 10:43-44) Just as Christ came to serve, the effective Christian leader has the heart of a servant. Service opportunities lay a foundation for developing the servants perspective of leadership.

6. Preparation for the future

Students who have participated in service opportunities have a greater understanding of themselves and their roles in the church, community, and school community. They are better equipped to make realistic decisions about career goals and future plans. Students are more qualified candidates for employment, college admissions, scholarships and various types of financial aid.

To this end, our Bible curriculum includes a service work requirement to encourage students who do serve faithfully to continue. For those who do not, we encourage them to reflect on the call of service as they engage in service work.

GUIDELINES

1. Annual Service Hour **requirements** are as follows:

Service Hours: Grade 9 - 15 hours
Grade 10 - 15 hours
Grade 11 - 15 hours
Grade 12 - 15 hours

Students must accumulate service hours from at least **two different service categories per year**. A maximum of 10 hours in any one area may be recorded toward the required 15 hours per year.

Reflection Paper: All students are required to submit one reflection paper per year. The reflection paper should be at least 150 words and must be typed double spaced. Consider the following questions when writing the paper: How do you feel about performing service activities (in general or while you performed a specific service activity)? What are your thoughts on service? How were you affecting other people, and how were you affected by what you were doing?

2. Additional service hours over the required 15 hours are encouraged and will be noted on the academic transcript provided they meet the standard requirements.
3. **Deadlines: Reports for 8 hours of service as well as the reflection paper** must be turned in by the **first Tuesday after Christmas vacation**. **Reports for the last 7 hours** must be turned in by the **first Tuesday in May**. All students who do not meet these deadlines will receive a detention once every two weeks until the requirement is met.
4. Students must complete service hours to be promoted to the next grade level. **Service hours are a requirement for graduation**.
5. Service hour requirements may be completed between June 1 - May 1. Opportunities that present themselves outside of established dates must be approved in writing in advance by the Service Hour Coordinator.
6. Some service opportunities may fit into more than one category. A specific activity may only be reported under one category and may not be split into multiple categories. For example, a missions trip with 40 hours of service may be reported as 40 hours of church-related service or 40 hours of community-related service. It may not be reported as 30 hours of church-related service and 10 hours of community-related service.
7. Parents will be allowed to sign the service hours report in lieu of a supervisor or person served signature, so as to keep the service anonymous.

What is service?

Service opportunities are those activities where the student volunteers their time with no compensation or tangible benefit to the student providing the service.

Types of Service

1. ***Church related activities*** - This category includes service that directly benefits a church and its ministries. Church-related service includes voluntary commitments in Sunday school or children's ministry leadership (including helpers), choir or other musical contribution, youth leadership positions, missions trips initiated through a church, outreach activities, Vacation Bible School or similar program, work done for upkeep of the church building or grounds, or work done at related organizations for which membership is limited to a specific church or church(es). (Maximum 10 hours per year toward the required 15 hours.)
 - C For missions trips or similar service, a maximum of 8 hours of service will be given per day. For example, if the missions trip to Mexico lasted 5 days (excluding travel time), students will be allowed to record a maximum of 40 service hours, 10 of which may count toward the required 15.
 - C For participation in a church service, the time reported for service hours may include group practice time and the actual time spent in the activity during the church service.
2. ***Community related activities*** - This category includes service directly in contact with your own community or the greater community. Opportunities include mentors, nursing home visitors (i.e., St. Camillus), food pantry volunteers, hospital volunteers, commons cleanup day activities, camp volunteers, and youth sports coaching. Opportunities may also include missions trips and programs such as Vacation Bible School. (Maximum 10 hours per year toward the required 15.)
 - C For summer camp volunteers or similar service, a maximum of 8 hours of service will be given per day. For example, if the time spent at camp was 7 days (excluding travel time), students will be allowed to record a maximum of 56 service hours, 10 of which may count toward the required 15.
3. ***School related activities*** - This category includes those opportunities that directly impact the students and community of WCS. Such activities might include peer tutoring, Crusader Outreach events, teacher/office aides (non credit), Parents' Organization volunteer, Auction volunteer, Magazine Drive counters, visitor hosts, custodial work. (Maximum 10 hours per year toward the required 15.)

Where do I find opportunities to serve?

Opportunities to serve are abundant every moment; you just need to be aware. If you see a need in your community, take the opportunity to fill it. Watch your church bulletins or announcements. Speak with your pastor. Serve in a ministry at church. Listen to school announcements for opportunities to help at school. Join Crusader Outreach (advisor is Mr. Vriesema) and participate in activities they coordinate including Operation Christmas Child, mentoring, nursing home visits, and others. Ask if the office or a teacher needs help. If you're still having trouble, speak with Mrs. Williams, Service Hours Coordinator.

What is not accepted towards the service hours requirement?

Helping someone in any manner is certainly encouraged by WCS, shows a servant's heart, and is commendable. However, there are certain types of help that we have determined do not meet the goals of the service hours requirement here at WCS. We have listed a few guidelines below of service that **typically will be denied** toward the service hours requirement.

- C Helping immediate or extended family members at home or at their place of business. Helping your family is expected as being part of that family and will typically be denied toward the service hours requirement. Examples include raking, snow shoveling, driving ill members to appointments, or other help to family members. In addition, work done at a family-owned business even if the student is not paid does not count toward the requirement. Thirdly, helping a family member at their place of employment (even at a non-profit organization) will not be accepted unless the volunteer work completed decreases the amount of pay available to the family member.
- C Work done for a for-profit organization in lieu of being paid does not count toward the requirement unless there are special circumstances approved by the service hours coordinator.
- C Travel time spent to get to the place where you will provide a service can not be included in the service hours reported.

SUGGESTED SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

This list represents only a minute number of service opportunities but is meant to provide assistance to students and parents who are looking for places to serve.

SCHOOL

Teacher/Office Aide - Set a schedule to be an aide to a specific teacher during one a scheduled study hall time - Coordinated through Mr. Vriesema (Guidance Counselor) at the beginning of each semester - Although this opportunity was originally set up as an option to receive course credits, a student may choose to complete this service partly or in whole as service without course credit. Requires a one-semester commitment.

Treasures - Help at the thrift store which benefits all WCS students by contributing profits to tuition. Contact Mrs. Hendricks at schedule@valleytreasures.org or call her at 774-272-0345.

Apple Pie Fundraiser - Annually in October - Volunteers are solicited through morning announcements and the newsletter.

Harvest Fair - Annually, typically first Saturday in November - Volunteers are needed to help with set up on the Friday before the fair, to help during the fair, and to help take down on Saturday afternoon after the fair. Volunteers are solicited through morning announcements and the newsletter throughout October.

Auction - Annually, typically in April - Volunteers are needed with set up, during the auction, and with take-down. Volunteers are solicited through morning announcements and the newsletter in late March and early April.

COMMUNITY

Vacation Bible School or similar summer Bible camp - Watch your church's announcements and community announcements to volunteer.

Community Harvest Project - Help grow vegetables for the needy. March-October/November. Visit www.community-harvest.org for more information.

Community Clean-up Days - Many towns hold community clean-up days each spring and each fall. Watch your newspapers and community bulletin boards for announcements.

Salvation Army - help in their thrift stores or ring bells during the holiday season. Call Salvation Army for details.

Operation Christmas Child - Wrap boxes and pack them with school and health supplies for the needy. Help is solicited through morning announcements and newsletter usually in October and early November each year. Coordinated through Crusader Outreach (Mr. Vriesema, advisor).

Mentoring - Set a schedule to be a mentor for a student at the Northbridge Primary School. Students go to the primary school about once/week to visit with the student, help with homework, or play games. Coordinated through Crusader Outreach (Mr. Vriesema, advisor) usually at the beginning of the school year. Year-long commitment is required.

Visit the elderly - A group of students from WCS go to the Whitinsville Retirement Home on Wednesdays after school to play games and interact with the elderly there. Coordinated through Crusader Outreach (Mr. Vriesema, advisor). Year-long commitment is not required.

Cancer Walk - get details from John regarding when and coordinator

Walk for Hunger - get details from John regarding when and coordinator

CROP Walk -

Food Drive

Christmas Cards

more?

CHURCH

Help out with children's programs, including nursery. Contact the person in charge of these ministries at your church.

Office aide - Contact the office administrator at your church to see if there is anything with which you can help.

Join the Choir or Praise Team to use your musical abilities in worship. Contact the Music Director at your church.