

Community Service

Requirements

- Community Service must be completed between the grades nine through twelve.
- Student must complete a minimum of 60 hours of community service during their high school years. Community service may be performed at any time during a student's high school career, from the summer before freshman year until the last day of classes their senior year. The number of hours will be prorated for students joining the academy after their freshman year. Students should complete 15 hours of community service for each year enrolled.
- Programs must be on a volunteer basis only. If students are compensated for their work, they are not granted credit for community service. There are some exceptions to this rule. For example: If a student is a member of an animal rescue group fostering animals for adoption. Students may receive reimbursement for food and medical bills pertaining to the care of animals.
- Activity format is flexible; students may elect to engage in a single activity or many, over an extended or concentrated period of time.
- Program should be directly related to your community.
- A full description of your student's service must be provided to Five Stars Academy for approval PRIOR to beginning. Once the program is approved the student may begin their service.
- A Community Service Evaluation Form must be completed each quarter by your student's supervisor or the director of the program.

There are many worthwhile community activities for young people, and the needs are great. Students are encouraged to become involved in whatever activity interests them, whether it is eligible for Five Stars Academy community service credit or not. The personal satisfaction and learning experiences that come with volunteer work are the same whether it is eligible or not. For the purposes of the Five Stars Academy Community Service graduation requirement, the following guidelines must be met.

Eligible community service activity is:

- *Performed for no pay and*
- *Completed under the direction of a nonprofit agency or with prior approval of the school administration, and*
- *Beneficial to at least one other person and/or the larger community.*

Eligible community service activity is not:

- *Associated with fund raising for sports or politics*
- *Something you are already doing for school credit or disciplinary action*
- *Volunteer work for family, neighbors or friends, such as babysitting and yard work, unless under the direction of a non-profit organization*

Examples of eligible Community Service:

- *In-school volunteering such as hours at the library, helping teachers or the administration with teaching or community related projects at Five Stars Academy*
- *Hours spent with a FSA club, actively performing a service to the community or organizing an event. The club advisor will determine eligible hours.*
- *Tutoring and mentoring which is under the direction of a school representative*
- *Non-profit agencies outside of school such as a hospital, a library, etc.*
- *Volunteer activities with the elderly if done through a non-profit organization.*
- *Unpaid coaching for most sports teams if they are non-profit, with tryouts open to all*
- *Unpaid camp counseling is eligible (up to 12 hours per day) but that should include only hours spent actually working with children*
- *Volunteer projects done in conjunction with out of school non-profit organizations such as Spay the Strays, Rotary or Lions Club, JLM Christian Foundation*
- *Church-sponsored volunteering if you participate in projects to benefit a community (local, national, international) or in unpaid childcare. Worship service participation, training, or leadership is not eligible. For mission trips, students should report actual number of hours worked*
- *Hours for direct participation in charity fundraisers and walks*
- *Direct care of animals if done at a non-profit animal shelter*

Examples of non-eligible Community Service:

- *Paid work at an organization even if it is a non-profit*
- *Non-active participation, such as personal learning through a movie or class*
- *Participation in any aspect of music, dance or drama productions, unless such volunteer work is pre-approved*