

KCHS Service Program

Pope Francis has continually called all Christians to a deeper love of service. At a Jubilee Audience, on March 12, 2016, Pope Francis stated:

I would like to reflect on Christ's words: "Do you know what I have done to you? [...] If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet" (Jn 13:12, 14). In this way Jesus indicates to his disciples that *service* is the way to live out their faith in him and to bear witness to his love. [...] By washing the feet of the Apostles, Jesus wished to reveal God's mode of action in regard to us, and to give an example of his "new commandment" (Jn 13:34) to love one another as He has loved us, that is, laying down his life for us. [...] Love, therefore, is the *practical service* that we offer to others. Love is not a word, it is a deed, a service.

It is love then that motivates and serves as the heart of the KCHS service program.

SERVICE HOUR REQUIREMENTS

Hours can be accumulated starting May 22, 2020, for the 2020-21 school year. Students are encouraged to complete as many hours as possible during the summer.

Freshmen and Sophomores are expected to complete a total of at least (10) hours during the year. There is no requirement for direct service.

Juniors and Seniors are expected to complete at least fifteen (15) hours. Of these fifteen hours, at least five (5) must be DIRECT service.

DIRECT vs. INDIRECT SERVICE

Direct service involves direct face-to-face contact of those being served. Examples of this are servicing food at a soup kitchen, tutoring a child, and working at the Under the Bridge Ministry for the homeless.

Indirect service is working for the *benefit* of those in need but with no person-to-person contact. This includes fundraisers, prep work at a soup kitchen, or sorting clothes at Ladies of Charity. These are valuable forms of service, but they only indirectly help those who are in need. Please see the Parent Student Handbook for further examples of direct and indirect service.

Examples of activities that DO NOT COUNT (this list of examples is not exhaustive)

- Baby sitting
- Coaching or refereeing a local sports team
- Summer camps or programs (e.g., a baseball camp, photography camp, art camp, Tates, etc.)
- Helping family members
- Working at a for-profit business

SERVICE vs. VOLUNTEERISM

There is a difference between the KCHS understanding of service and simple volunteerism. Just because a student is not getting paid does not mean that his volunteer hours will meet Catholic's requirements for service. A student cannot get credit for service offered to family members. Working at a for-profit business such as a law firm or business will also not receive service hours. Volunteering at sports camps (or similar camps) does not count as service. This means that if the camp is raising money for the club, for uniforms, or for the coaches, it **WILL NOT COUNT**. The exception to this is if the camp is directed towards the underprivileged, the disabled, or is serving as a fundraiser for a charitable organization.

Questions regarding eligibility of an activity must be submitted to the service coordinator in advance of performing the project or camp.

DUE DATES

Students are required to turn in service hours throughout the year and not wait until the end of the school year to turn in all hours.

All hours completed during the summer must be submitted by September 10, 2020.

CONSEQUENCES FOR UNFINISHED HOURS

Any student who has incomplete service hours from the previous year **MUST** complete those hours before he can receive any service hour credit for the current school year. **A student who does not complete his hours by the end of the school year will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities during the following school year. This includes, but is not limited to, athletics, robotics, coffee house, plays, all Spirit Week activities, etc. A student may have this right reinstated upon completion of the hours that he owes.**

Seniors who do not complete their hours **will not be able to walk at Graduation and will have their transcripts held** until all owed hours are turned in.

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICE AWARDS

Every year, KCHS awards "The President's Service Awards." These awards are granted to those students who have gone above and beyond in their commitment to serve the wider community. The governing institution, as opposed to KCHS, sets the requirements for this award. This includes, but is not necessarily limited to, completing at least 100+ hours of service. The student is responsible for keeping track of his own hours and making sure that KCHS is aware that he qualifies for this award. **Completed hours must be turned in by the beginning of February.** Hours for The President's Volunteer Service Awards must take place during the 2020 calendar year.

LOGGING OF HOURS

KCHS uses Mobileserve, a phone app-based logging system on student devices, to track service hours. This means that a student will be responsible for logging his own hours. Hours will require verification from the agency or event coordinator, plus one other form of verification (digital signature, photo, or geo-location). Incoming Freshmen and transfer students will create accounts in the fall. Returning students keep the same account year-to-year.