

KCHS Service Program

Pope Francis has continually called all Christians to a deeper love of service. He has challenged and called all men and women of good will to live lives that demonstrate the love of God through a greater care of one's neighbor. 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 animates the KCHS service program.

SERVICE HOUR REQUIREMENTS

Due to COVID-19 outbreak, service hours in the 2019-2020 were waived. To mitigate health risks associated with some direct service activities, **all direct service hour requirements been waived for school year 2020-2021. Instead, each student must complete five (5) hours of indirect service.** Students may perform direct service hours if a student and his family deem the activity safe.

Hours can be accumulated starting May 22, 2020 for the 2020-2021 school year. Students are encouraged to complete as many hours as possible during the summer.

INDIRECT SERVICE

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.

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

- Baby sitting
- Coaching or refereeing a local sports team
- Summer Camps or programs (i.e. a baseball camp, photography camp, art camp, Tate's, 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 KCHS 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.

MISSION TRIPS

It is possible that preapproved, faith-based mission trips may count for two years of service. Students must consult the service coordinator before planning a trip.

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 submitted by **September 10, 2020.**
- All hours completed during the 1st semester of the school year submitted by **February 1, 2021.**
- All remaining hours for seniors submitted by **April 14, 2021.**
- All remaining hours for underclassmen submitted by **May 7, 2021.**

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, an app-based logging system housed on student devices, to log and track their own service 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.

Students who will not have access to Mobileserve until the fall will need to provide the service coordinator a paper copy of those hours by the September deadline. For rising sophomores through seniors, the service hour logging form can be accessed as always through FamilyPortal (RenWeb)/Resource Documents. Rising Freshmen may have the agency's service representative provide the student the agency's name and date, description, and number of hours performed.

The summer service form must be signed by a member of the agency where service was completed. Parent's signatures will not be accepted. **These forms must then be taken to the service coordinator, who will sign the form and mark either direct or indirect hours (for Juniors and Seniors).**

DIRECT SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Cook/Serve meals at a shelter or temporary residence (i.e. Family Promise)
- Deliver meals to poor or shut-ins (Mobile Meals)
- Hand out food at a food pantry (i.e. FISH pantry)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteer with therapy programs (i.e. STAR)
- Participate in Mission trips (KCHS hosts a Belize and Haiti trip)
- Teach Vacation Bible School or other religious education classes
- Tutor underprivileged children
- Volunteer as a camp counselor for disabled/underprivileged children
- Attend Catholic Heart Work Camp or other similar activities
- Care Cuts (haircuts for the poor)
- Ronald McDonald House (working with families)
- Nursing homes such as Arbor Terrace (a group of KCHS students go every Wednesday)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters

Except in extremely rare cases, direct service should be done through an agency.

INDIRECT SERVICE EXAMPLES

- Parish activities (cleaning, maintenance, fundraisers)
Please note, serving, cantoring, ushering, etc. at liturgies DO NOT COUNT (the exception is for funeral liturgies or if helping at multiple masses – the mass fulfilling a student's Sunday obligation does not count. Students with questions may contact Father.christopher.manning@knoxvillecatholic.com)
- Pre-Approved "Campus Pride" work at KCHS or feeder school (hour limit: 3)
- Packing meals for poor
- Shelving items at a food pantry
- Volunteering at fundraisers for the poor or ill
- Any work for Catholic Charities or the Ladies of Charity with no direct contact with the poor, e.g.: sorting clothes
- Volunteering at a Crisis Pregnancy Center with no direct contact with women in crisis
- Volunteering at the headquarters of a charity organization
- Help at fundraisers for charity
- Sort/organize gifts for the poor

APPROVED AGENCIES

- KARM
- Boy's & Girl's Club
- Ronald McDonald House
- FISH Hospitality Pantry
- Mobile Meals
- STAR
- TRAK
- Nursing homes
- Vacation Bible School
- Religious Education classes
- Love Kitchen
- Special Spaces
- American Red Cross
- Catholic Charities
- Water Angels
- Columbus Home

APPROVED AGENCIES

- Lost Sheep Ministries
- Ladies of Charity
- Emerald Youth Foundation
- YMCA
- Habitat for Humanity
- Salvation Army
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Volunteer Ministry Center

Please note: some work at these agencies may be considered direct and other work indirect. See above for an explanation.