

# LSHS STEM Academy: Community Service Participation Form

## Why must STEM students complete community service?

- To make a difference in your community
- To learn the importance and value of helping others
- To learn new skills and meet new people
- To solve real life problems through hands-on experience
- To gain eligibility for service scholarships
- Because it is the right thing to do

## Consider what others have said:

- The best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others. –Gandhi
- When you cease to make a contribution you begin to die.—Eleanor Roosevelt
- You make a living by what you get, but you make a life by what you give. —Winston Churchill
- Our nation became great not because of what the government did, but because of what its people did.—George Romney

## What counts as community service?

While there are some specific rules for what counts and what does not, the guiding principle should be that the activity in which you are engaged benefits the community in some meaningful way. Students involved with community service seek to fulfill a genuine need. Community service enriches the lives of others with no financial gain to a group or individual. Students may not receive payment or compensation in any form for services performed. The overriding issue should be that the community service is done primarily to benefit the community at large and to fulfill a genuine need.

The following may not count as service hours:

- Community service assigned by a court or as part of a disciplinary action
- Working at for-profit camps, or camps where employees pay reduced fees and receive training
- Coaching or assisting at athletic camps which benefit a specific team or organization
- Service at for-profit businesses (even if the work is un-paid) with the exception of hospitals and nursing homes
- Charity walks showing solidarity without raising money for the cause
- Participation in religious rites, services, or ceremonies (choir, acolyting, Torah reading); Providing services to Sunday School, Bible School or Religious School classes whose primary purpose is the dissemination and fostering of religious beliefs
- Fundraising to support religious institutions unless the proceeds are for charitable purposes and not for the benefit of the sponsoring religious institution
- Participation (as members or officers) in religious youth groups unless that group is
  - Performing specific community service activities
  - Training for a specific community service project
- Service to a particular political party or political candidate; however, volunteering for voter registration would be approved
- Work for relatives (raking leaves for grandparents, babysitting for sister, etc.)
- Work for individuals such as neighbors (raking leaves) unless done through an established group

No more than 8 hours per day can be counted toward community service.

## Exceptions to Guidelines:

The above criteria will not cover all circumstances. Any questions concerning exceptions to the definitions and guidelines should be addressed to the STEM coordinator (Ms. Millinor) or STEM administrator (Dr. Collins). Issues regarding special circumstances should be dealt with before the service is performed.

## Procedures for Submitting Community Service Hours

- Obtain a Community Service participation form from your adviser or download one from the STEM website.
- Complete the Service participation form neatly and completely. Record/submit service hours in quarter hour increments.
- Obtain the signature of a qualified supervisor or contact person who will verify your participation. In general, parents should not sign for verification.
- Submit completed forms to your adviser (students are strongly encouraged to keep a copy of completed hours for their records).
- Service hours must be submitted within TWO weeks of the date of service.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_

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Supervisor/Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature *confirming completion of service*: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s) of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Number of Hours *completed for this activity*: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Reflection on Experience (Minimum 100 Words): \_\_\_\_\_

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To the best of my knowledge, this form has been accurately and honestly completed.

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_