

# COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION

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## WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

- ★ Community service is volunteer time intended to enhance the greater community as well as OHS students' lives.
- ★ Community service gives students an opportunity to meet Oceana's School Wide Outcome 5, "Respectful, responsible, and engaged community members."
- ★ Community service gives students a chance to gain job skills and self-esteem, while improving problem solving and critical thinking skills (School Wide Outcome 3).
- ★ Community service allows students an opportunity to understand the issues in their communities and to feel connected to others. Current research finds that volunteer work promotes well-being and happiness.
- ★ Community service is an excellent addition for college and job applications and scholarships are available for students who earn silver cord honors.

## HOW MANY HOURS ARE REQUIRED AND HOW ARE THEY RECORDED?

- ★ Each student must complete 25 hours for each year of attendance at Oceana. Hours are prorated at the rate of 12.5 per semester for transfer students.
  - All incoming students (9<sup>th</sup> and transfer) may bring in 25 hours from previous experience with proper documentation.
- ★ ALL service must be done outside of the regular school day.
- ★ It is important to make sure the log sheet is properly signed and all necessary information provided. Letters from agencies must be on the agency's letterhead and contain the same information as the log sheets.
- ★ Students should make a personal copy of all community service log sheets or letters before turning them in. Give the extra copy to your advisor to file. Blank log sheets are available in the Library and can be downloaded from the OHS website.
- ★ Hours are updated several times a year and are given to advisors. Check with your advisor to see your current hours. You can also ask Mr. Weiss or Ms. Murphy any time.
- ★ Students who earn 250 hours or 2.5 times their required number of hours, earn a silver cord as an honor at graduation.
- ★ **The Deadline for documentation for any hours completed each school year (including the prior summer) is due on the second or third to last Friday of the school year. Any hours not turned in by this date will not be counted.**

## WHAT KIND OF SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS QUALIFY?

- ★ **All community service must be completed at a non-profit agency or organization.** Such organizations include schools, hospitals, libraries, city agencies, public TV and radio stations, soup kitchens and food banks, boys & girls clubs, park and recreation departments, and many other places. **CHECK BEFORE YOU START!!!**
- ★ Community service may **NOT** be done for any for-profit businesses, for individuals, or for direct family members, even if you are not getting paid. Be careful with child care and elder care agencies – many are for-profit businesses.
- ★ Service done at religious organizations (churches, temples, mosques, etc...) is only allowed when the work is non-religious. Additionally, the work must be intended to benefit the greater community and not to promote the religion. **Any kind of religious instruction or participation in worship services does not qualify.**
- ★ Community service credit for political work will only be given if the work is non-partisan (voter registration, working the polls, etc.)
- ★ Students will receive 12 hours of community service per full day of Outdoor Ed if it takes place during a school break. If it is during Interim week, students will receive 6 hours for each full day of work and 4 hours for partial days.
- ★ **Students may only receive a maximum of 62.5 for each individual Oceana sponsored on-campus event – including managing a sports team.** Community service credit is not available for organizing or participating in assemblies, rallies, or dances, or for working for an individual teacher.
- ★ **If you have ANY questions or concerns about an agency or organization, check with the Community Service Coordinator BEFORE you start working so that you can be sure your time will be counted!**

## HOW DO I FIND A COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY?

- ★ Many current community service opportunities are listed in the bulletin and fliers at school. This information can also be found on our website: <http://ohs.juhsd.net/>
- ★ Ask your advisor, your friends, and the Community Service Coordinator for ideas.
- ★ Go to these websites for ideas and opportunities:
  - San Francisco Bay Area Volunteer Information Center: <http://www.volunteerinfo.org/>
  - The Volunteer Center: <http://www.thevolunteercenter.net/>
  - It's Your District (San Francisco): <http://itsyourdistrict.org/opportunities>
  - HandsOn Bay Area <https://www.handsonbayarea.org/youth-guide>

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**COMMUNITY SERVICE COORDINATOR:**

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**GOOGLE CLASSROOM CODE: vxk03yd**