

Frequently Asked Questions About Service Learning

How many hours of service do I need to complete by June 1, 2007?

Each ninth grade student must complete **thirty** hours of approved service. Fifteen may be done over the summer. Ten may be done during school hours while serving in such capacity as ASB officer, mentor, peer-tutor, or on the Kirkland/Redmond Youth Council, etc.

How should I get started?

You will be given a chance to do some research into local service organizations in your English class. By the end of October, you should have a clear plan for completing your hours. The Kirkland Youth Council also publishes a handbook called *Where To Care* (http://www.ci.kirkland.wa.us/_shared/assets/WhereToCare20031754.pdf), which will assist you in finding local service organizations. Simply using the telephone book is another possibility.

Where can I complete my service-learning hours?

We encourage students to find a service opportunity that will take advantage of their own interests and abilities. For example, if you enjoy reading and books, you could consider volunteering at the library. If you like working with people, consider volunteering at a nursing home. Try to think about what really matters to you. This is an opportunity to show that you care about your community.

Can I work for a local business?


You may certainly work for a **non-profit** organization. The purpose of the organization should be service. Sweeping floors for a restaurant or some other for-profit business will not benefit the community but will help meet a profit margin.

How do I sign up to be a volunteer?

Call them up and ask them! Many organizations, such as hospitals and libraries, have an application process for volunteers. The important thing is to leave yourself enough time in the school year both to apply to volunteer and to actually complete your hours.

Can I work for my neighbor?

Many students take advantage of unique opportunities for service. If your neighbor requires extra assistance due to age or disability, they would welcome your assistance. However, volunteering for a neighbor just because they're convenient is not an acceptable reason. There are other ways to contribute. Some students have organized car washes to raise money for a



local charity. Other students have used their technological expertise to teach computer skills to elementary students, using a former teacher as a contact person.

What type of presentation will I have to do in the spring?

The presentation will depend on what your social studies teacher assigns. Some students complete a reflection essay. Other students give an oral presentation complete with pictures and PowerPoint. The important goal is to choose a service activity that engages your interests and uses your abilities.

Do I have to do all thirty hours with one organization?

Not at all. Many students complete a couple hours on one activity and a few on another, thereby taking advantage of various seasonal opportunities for service. It is still necessary to complete a form for each service activity, however.

How do we keep track of our hours?

Included in this packet of information is a form to show that you completed your hours. You will need to complete a form for each place that you volunteer, but if you volunteer at a place more than once, you only need to do the form once.

Can I volunteer with my church?

We encourage students to do their service “where their heart is”. If serving in your church is a matter of the heart, then you’re welcome to serve there. Many churches serve the community through food banks, clothing drives, etc. Students find numerous opportunities to serve through their church.

Why does the form look like a job recommendation form?

For many students, volunteering is their first opportunity to do “real work”. We ask for an evaluation at the end so that students can use the experience as a reference when they apply for their first “real job”.

What advice would past ninth graders give us about service learning?

Start right away! Don’t put it off!

