

27. COMMUNITY SERVICE

Beginning with the graduating class of 2018, ACS will require each high school student complete a minimum of 12.5 hours of community service for each year enrolled in high school. The community service requirement for graduation is designed to help students learn servant leadership in the way of Christ. In community service, we look for opportunities to help those less fortunate than ourselves without the expectation of recognition or compensation in any form. Through community service efforts, we seek to help others and exemplify a Christ-like heart of a servant as described in Luke 14. We hope that students will develop a love for serving others and that the 12.5 hours per year is merely the floor and not the ceiling of a student's benevolence.

27.1 Specific Guidelines for Community Service

- The student cannot be paid for the service provided; any compensation for a service automatically disqualifies the service for credit.
- Any service performed for an *individual* must have prior approval from the principal.
- Credit for service provided will be given on a minute-for-minute basis (i.e., 1.5 hours of service equals 1.5 hours of credit).
- Transportation to and from service projects will not be considered in the total hours served.
- Service hours will only be accepted during the course of the school year. The school year (for purposes of community service) will be defined as June 1 - May 31.

27.2 Examples of Service Opportunities in the Community

- Christian Service Center
- Meals on Wheels
- Homeless shelters
- Habitat for Humanity
- Retirement/Nursing homes
- Salvation Army
- Special Olympics
- Local hospitals
- Public Library or other civic opportunities
- Animal shelters

27.3 Examples of Service Opportunities at Church

- Youth Mission Trips
- Community Workdays for the elderly or disadvantaged

While volunteering at ACS functions, your church nursery, or assisting in a Bible class/VBS are worthy opportunities, these are viewed as part of your ministry at church and school and will not qualify for community service according to the ACS guidelines.

The examples provided in these Guidelines for Community Service are not intended to be comprehensive. If a student questions whether any community service activity would receive credit, he or she is encouraged to contact the high school principal or secretary. The secondary principal is the final authority on matters pertaining to community service.

Seniors failing to complete the required community service hours will not be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony and activities.

27.4 Procedure for Completing Community Service

- Choose an activity that falls under the guidelines for acceptable community service or seek approval.
- Pick up a community service form in the high school office. You may also print the online version from the website.
- Fill out the top portion with your student information and that of the organization.
- Perform your community service and keep track of the hours of service.
- Complete the remainder of the form. Have a supervisor write down the hours volunteered and sign the form. The form will not be accepted without a signature and phone number from the supervisor.
- Turn in the completed form to the high school office. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.