



### Have a great idea for a community service project? Do a partnership!

If you have a great idea for a community service project that does not exist, try partnering with a non-profit organization with goals similar to yours.

## Volunteer Resources

Serve DC —The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism

- [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov)

Serve.gov—The Corporation for National and Community Service

- [www.serve.gov](http://www.serve.gov)

Volunteer.gov

- [www.volunteer.gov/gov](http://www.volunteer.gov/gov)

Volunteer Match

- [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org)

## Student Responsibilities

1. Select an eligible site.  
**Must follow the Community Service Guidelines.**
2. Find transportation to and from site.  
**Students are responsible for their own transportation.**
3. Identify an on-site supervisor.  
**The supervisor must approve all documented community service hours.**
4. Submit all required documentation to the school coordinator or counselor.  
**Keep copies of EVERYTHING.**

## Community Service

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.*

—Margaret Mead

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For more info, visit the DCPS website at <http://dcps.dc.gov/page/community-service>



## Student Guide to Community Service

Office of the Chief of Schools  
Academic Planning and Support

# Student Guide to Community Service

*Make a career out of humanity; commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country and a finer world to live in.*

—Martin Luther King Jr.

## Guidelines for Requirement

### STUDENTS MUST:

- Complete a minimum of 100 hours of community service
- Volunteer at a 501(c)(3) organization or a federal, state or local government agency
- Document their hours with their on-site supervisor, and give to their counselor

### STUDENTS CANNOT:

- Receive payment for their service
- Complete community service during school hours without prior authorization
- Be the recipient of the service (for example, students who receive tutoring cannot document that as their community service hours)

## Examples of Non-Qualifying Activities

Some activities are admirable but cannot be counted toward the graduation requirement of 100 hours of community service. For example:

- Babysitting for a family member
- Hairstyling or doing manicures for a friend
- Donating items such as money, food, clothes or blood
- Raking leaves for a neighbor
- Participating in traditional school-sponsored activities such as student government meetings, band practices, choir rehearsal, athletics, etc.

In 1992, The District of Columbia was one of the first large urban school districts in the country to include community service as a graduation requirement. The community service requirement aims to equip students with the necessary skills and abilities for career and educational advancement as well as motivate students to take an active role as leaders in their communities.

The following is an overview of the basic guidelines for community service for District of Columbia Public Schools. Please consult your school counselor or community service coordinator for additional guidelines and requirements.

