

Christian Service Hours ~ The Prout School

Jesus said:

Do you understand what I have done for you? You call me 'teacher' and 'master' and rightly so, for indeed I am. If I, therefore, your master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do."

(John 13:12-15)

We do service because it is what Jesus asks us to do. "Love your neighbor as yourself" is part of the Greatest Commandment. **So, everything we do as "service" should be something(s) that is beyond what we are required to do, and it should be done for no compensation.** That said, there has been some confusion as to what is and what is not considered Christian service, in respect to what is "counted" towards your 20 hours. Here are a few guidelines:

What is always acceptable:

- **Volunteering at nursing homes and hospitals**
- **Tutoring**
- **Coaching a sports team for younger kids/teaching dance to younger kids *for a non-profit organization***
- **Altar serving at your parish**
- **Vacation Bible School, or other volunteer work at your parish**
- **Work at a soup kitchen, food pantry, or shelter like Jonnycake, Warm Shelter, or the Welcome House**
- **Volunteering at school (this one or an elementary school) to help with open houses, fundraising, or the like**
- **Volunteer fire fighter**
- **Working at an animal shelter**
- **Working for an organization like Special Olympics**

Other Organizations you may consider:

1. **Crossroads RI**, a full-service homeless shelter and housing assistance organization in Providence, collects "welcome baskets" for individuals and families moving into new housing. The baskets can be filled with cleaning supplies and other items.

<https://www.crossroadsri.org/how-you-can-help/getting-involved/donate-in-kind>

2. **Gloria Gemma Virtual 5K** <https://gloriagemma.rallybound.org/runwalk-virtual-5k>

3. **Donate Blood**

Create Encouragement – Sending words of encouragement to seniors and messages of thanks to medical professionals. Notecards or drawings can touch the hearts of those in need of a smile. Pick your favorite facility (hospital, health centers, and nursing homes, veterans home) Anything created must be approved by your religion teacher. Veteran’s letters should be given to your religion teacher for distribution. Once approved all other items may be sent to:

Christine Foisy

100 Kenyon Ave

Wakefield, RI 02879

Email: cfoisy@southcountyhealth.org

- o letters
- o Videos
- o Goodie bags of pre-wrapped candy etc.
- o Kindness Rock

4. **Elderwood Of Scallop Shell At Wakefield**

55 Scallop Shell Way

Wakefield, RI 02879

The residents at Elderwood are missing human interaction due to COVID19; these patients just need someone to talk with. They are equipped to have 30-minute chat sessions with our students and their residents. Pick an interesting subject and talk with 1-2 residents or a group. Time to think outside of the box. Some ideas might be: sport chat, art lesson or just showing off your art, history, music

Elderwood staff would supervise the session on their end and a parent should supervise the student during the chat. Videos are also welcome.

5. **Chores**

Do you get paid to do chores around the house? Hours for these chores can be counted **ONLY** if the payment you receive goes to a local pantry. Receipt from pantry must accompany your signed serve form.

IN GENERAL: work should be done at a NON-PROFIT organization

IF WHAT YOU ARE CONSIDERING IS NOT ON THIS LIST, it **MUST** be approved first. Please check with your religion teacher.

What is NOT acceptable as hours, and why:

- **Campaigning or doing any work of a political nature**
We need to ensure that since we are a Catholic school, what we accept towards service hour requirements is in keeping with all Catholic teachings. Therefore, any work of a political nature cannot be accepted towards service requirements, since often the issues contradict what the Church teaches.
- **Babysitting a sibling, taking care of a relative, doing things around your house, etc.**
All of these things are part of what it means to be part of your family. Again, this is really serving yourself.
- **Playing on a sports team, participating in a theater or dance production, or singing/playing music in a band or choir; nor can rehearsals (or practices) be considered**
Choir, Band and Strings are classes. Being part of a team...be that a sports team or a cast member...is an activity. A wonderful, important activity, yes, but not service. Also, any rehearsals or practices (including those that take place during Open House!) are part of your participation in that activity. In addition, Team Managers are part of the team, so the same principles apply, as they would to the tech & backstage people for a drama or music production
- **Anything that is already required as part of a class or commitment; or anything you get compensated for in any way (by getting paid or getting a grade, or by any other way)**
Service needs to be something above and beyond what is already expected. If you get something for it, it is not service.

And keep doing service! Remember...Jesus tells us to Love God and Love our neighbors!

*****NOTE: If you do service over the summer, or anytime that you know it will be difficult to get back in touch with your supervisor for a signature, get a letter and signature from your supervisor stating the organization for which you worked, the number of hours you completed, and the dates of your service. This letter should be signed by your supervisor; if you cannot obtain a signature due to COVID19 then a parent's signature is acceptable during this time.**