

De Soto High School

Community Service Graduation Requirement

Community service experiences provide opportunities for students to expand their minds, develop skills, better appreciate their ability to help others, build pride in themselves and their community, and foster a sense of caring and citizenship. With these goals in mind, De Soto High School students are required to participate in community service over the course of the student's high school career.

WHY IS COMMUNITY SERVICE IMPORTANT?

In addition to achieving the goals noted above, participating in community service activities builds positive character attributes and enhances the personal qualities young people need to succeed in the modern world. Students can proudly include their community service activities on scholarship applications, college admission applications, or when applying for employment.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Community service is volunteering time and effort, outside of one's family and immediate circle of friends, to assist community or school organizations in their work to serve and benefit others. Review the information below for examples of community service opportunities. Other service experiences may be accepted with prior approval by submitting the Student Community Service Application and Verification Form.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES

- The service activity should take place outside of a school sponsored activity.
- A student may not receive compensation for his or her community service.
- Students are responsible for arranging their own service experiences.
- Twenty hours of service are needed during a student's high school experience.
- A student must complete five hours of service for each year/partial year of enrollment at DHS.
- It is recommended that students try to schedule five hours per year.
- No more than five hours of community service credit will be granted per organization, activity, or individual signing a student's verification form.
- The signature of an unrelated adult supervisor and contact information must be included on each service log submitted.
- Seniors must complete their service by May 1st of the year of graduation.
- Students should make a copy of their signed verification form before returning it.
- Service verification forms are required to be legibly completed and returned within 10 days of the completion of the service experience.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Working with the elderly at Thornton Manor, Vernon Manor, or a similar facility.
- Serving as a coach or official for an organized athletic program.
- Helping humanitarian or social organizations such as the Red Cross, United Way, Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, food banks, Meals on Wheels, or hospitals.
- Working at a museum or other cultural center.
- Volunteering at the Humane Society, SPCA, or other animal welfare organization.
- Cleaning or repairing parks, highways, playgrounds, or community structures.
- Tutoring other students during Supervised Study, at a daycare center, or in a similar setting.
- Donating blood will be considered to be 1 hour of community service.

COMMUNITY SERVICE DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Working for a friend, family member, or neighbor for his/her profit or benefit.
- Working for a "for-profit" entity or organization.
- Court ordered community service.
- Participating in religious rites, ceremonies, services, or proselytizing.
- Fund-raising for religious or school organizations.