



Gateway College Preparatory School

Community Service:

Requirements and Procedures

Service Learning

One of the core values of Gateway Charter School is generosity. Community Involvement is critical to building citizens and is fundamental to our founding principle of generosity. Student participation in community service activities build an awareness of society and a connection between classroom and real world issues. Service learning is a method through which students learn about and develop a commitment to addressing needs in their communities.

Community service hours as a requirement for graduation enable students to explore opportunities to develop a lasting sense of responsibility to their local community and society as a whole.

Service Requirements

- Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, Gateway students are REQUIRED to complete 8 services hours per year to graduate.
- The purpose of the Service Requirement is to acquaint high school students with the need to become a participant in their local community and connect with organizations that benefit causes for which they may become lifelong advocates.
- Service Learning is defined as: an educational method which allows students to learn skills of civil participation, and develops an ethic of service and civic responsibility through active participation in service that is conducted in and meets the needs of the community.
- Students can provide service in the community on a voluntary basis to public, nonprofit agencies, civic, charitable, and governmental organizations.

Procedures

- In order to receive credit for the service learning hours, students must submit the [Community Service Form](#) by the last day of the school year each year.
- Students who do not complete the service hours by the deadline may ask for an extension to complete these in the summer. NO EXTENSION WILL BE PERMITTED FOR STUDENTS IN THEIR SENIOR YEAR.

General Guidelines

1. Student volunteer service hours must be earned in the community.
2. Services for which a student, or organization that a student is a member, receives compensation of any manner will not be counted. This includes revenues from ticket sales or donations. The only exception is if the student/organization is donating the profits to a bonafide charity.
3. Participation in fine arts performances, festivals, or community events may count as service hours if both conditions (a) and (b) below are met:
 - a) The performance meets an identified community service need (such as performing at a nursing home).
 - b) The performance is NOT an academic requirement.
4. Fundraising activities for non-profit charities may count as required service hours.
5. Volunteering at events sponsored by government agencies may count as required service hours.
6. Non-compensatory services donated to day care centers, retirement homes, or animal hospitals may count as required service hours.
7. Service hours performed for non-profit athletic or fine arts camps may count as required service hours as long as the student does not receive any compensation or services from the work performed.
8. Activities that require time out of school will NOT count as required service hours.
9. Service hours may be awarded to volunteer efforts for a political or issue campaign.
10. Service given to any for-profit summer camps will not count as required service hours.
11. Service hours given to a family business will not count as required service hours.
12. Service hours given as a result of a disciplinary action or probation will not count as required service hours.
13. Babysitting for a family will not count as required service hours.
14. Neither a family member of a student nor fellow student may certify service hours.
15. Service hours will not be assigned to donations of any kind.

Examples

- Special Olympics
- Mission trips
- Park clean-up
- Food banks
- Animal shelter