

National Honor Society Community Service

The helm chapter of the NHS believes that with privilege comes responsibility and that the integrity of the organization is directly related to how well its members model its precepts. To that end, community service constitutes a major portion of the selection criteria. To be considered for selection, community service must meet the guidelines detailed below. We believe in a multifaceted approach that requires a wide variety of types of volunteer activities that serve the greater community. No more than 25 hours may be accrued in any single service area as determined by the administration and faculty advisory council. There is no limit to the number of hours that may be submitted however 75 is the minimum.

Community service must provide a benefit to the greater good and extend itself beyond the boundaries of the organization that may sponsor it. Activities that do not extend beyond the limits of a club or organization cannot be counted. For example, the sale of Girl Scout cookies benefits the troop, but not the community at large. Participation in Our Gang Players, while certainly worthwhile, represents the pursuit of a personal interest and therefore does not meet the criteria for community service. Volunteering to teach or coach for organizations that charge for profit is also not acceptable for service credit. School sponsored field trips do not count as community service. This includes trips taken during the summer. Activities that originate through a church sponsored youth group will count as long as they benefit the community at large.

Some acceptable examples of community service include but are not limited to:

- Membership on a volunteer first aid or fire department
- Volunteer work at SOCH
- Aiding or assisting at any of the senior citizen centers
- Community activism that generates awareness of an issue
- Volunteer work for the Stafford or Long Beach Historical Societies
- Volunteer work at the Ocean County Library
- Participation in church activities that benefit the community (i.e. food drives, soup kitchen,)
- Participation in scouting activities that serve the community (i.e. dune grass planting)
- Performing service for a commercial business will not be accepted.
- All Chowderfest hours will be capped at a maximum of 10 hours total.
- Relay for life will be capped at 6 hours.

Any applicant that is uncertain of the status of a given service activity is urged to speak directly to Mrs. Tumme or Mr. Brown. This is the best way to avoid confusion and disappointment later on.

Student Information Directions

Explanation:

Section I: School Activities: Please list only organizations or clubs in which you are/were an active, contributing member in the 9th – 12th grades and not simply a name on the roster. You must obtain the advisor's/director's signature and average weekly hour time commitment. NO activity will be considered without a signature. Chose from the following: sports, band, cheerleading, drama, and music groups. Should you have any question about another activity, see Mrs. Tummey. You must show a consistent pattern of involvement, with at least two activities per year. You should strive to demonstrate diversity in your school activities. For example, sports, clubs and music.

Section II: Community Services: Please list only community activities in which you are/were an active, contributing member in 9th – 12th grades and not simply a name on the roster. You must include the advisor's/director's signature and average weekly hour time commitment. No activity will be considered without a phone number. **A random sampling of directors will be called for verification purposes. Each student must have 75 hours of service. A detailed explanation is attached.**

Section III: Character/Leadership: Please obtain the signatures of five faculty members who can attest that you are striving to demonstrate the qualities listed on the form.

Section IV: Awards: Please list any awards or honors you have received other than honor roll (This already assumed due to your 3.5+ G.P. A.). List any honorary organization, such as Spanish Honor Society, community service awards, Governor's School, etc.

Section V: Employment: List dates, places of employment, job responsibilities, time commitment.

Section VI: Hobbies, outside interests: Include activity, level of expertise, time commitment.

Section VII: Student's signature: Your signature attests to the fact that all the provided information is accurate. It is also a statement of agreement with NHS policies and requirements.

Section VIII: Parent's signature: Your signature confirms that you read the information included in the Student Information Packet and have seen your son/daughter's completed form.

Section IX: Paragraph of Introduction: As a word processing document and using the information included on this form, write a paragraph introducing yourself to the Faculty Council. It should be written in the third person using the format of the sample which follows. Attach this document to your form.

Sample:

Jane Doe is a member of the Math club, Science League, Student Council, Princeton Model Congress, and United Nations. She currently serves as treasurer of Key Club. Jane is a member of the German National Honor Society and will be a participant in the German American partnership Program this summer. Jane has been accepted into the Governor's School on the Environment. She also plays varsity tennis and soccer. She represented the Manahawkin Elks at its state and eastern regional Tournament of Champions in tennis where she placed third. Jane is a member of St. Stephen's youth group and has served there as an acolyte. She is also a member of Explorers located at SOCH.

Section X: Optional: Please indicate any extenuating circumstances which will help the selection committee better understand you as they consider your membership. Please attach as a word processing document.

The induction ceremony for 12th grade students will be held in the fall. The induction ceremony for 11th grade students will be held in the spring of their junior year.

