



## Community Service Specific Guidelines

**Organization-based service.** In general, service performed for profit-making organizations is **NOT** applicable, with the exception of hospitals, nursing homes, and newspapers. Service performed for individuals should be performed under the umbrella of an organization (e.g., tutoring a student through a school, helping the elderly through the Council on Aging). Activities such as babysitting, tutoring, or yard and housework to help a friend or neighbor do **NOT** count toward the requirement.

**Service through religious organizations.** In order to be applicable, an activity may not be associated with the rituals, services, or ceremonies of any specific religion, proselytizing, or fund raising to support a specific religion or religious institution. Thus, participation in religious services (e.g., choir membership, altar service, reading from the Torah), while a worthy endeavor, is **NOT** counted. However, educational activities and non-religious activities which benefit the religious community (in non-financial ways) or the community at large **ARE** applicable.

Examples of applicable religious-sponsored service activities include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Neighborhood clean-up
- Food bank
- Community festivals
- Hurricane relief
- Building/repairing homes for the needy
- After school tutoring
- After school childcare
- Toy drive
- Homeless ministries
- Nursing home ministries
- Singing in nursing homes or other community center

Participation (as members or officers) in religious youth groups is **NOT** generally applicable unless the groups are organizing and/or performing specific community service activities.

**Traditional school-sponsored activities.** Activities performed which are traditional after-school activities are **NOT** applicable. Thus, participation (as officers or as members) in student government, marching band, National Honor Society, and clubs and teams are **NOT** applicable unless the groups are organizing and/or performing specific community service activities.

Examples of applicable traditional school-sponsored activities include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- National Honor Society service activities (e.g., Salvation Army bell-ringing)
- Sports concession stand, field maintenance, etc.

**Summer Camps.** If other community service guidelines are met (related to compensation, type of organization, religious practices) hours spent in the actual organization and performance of specific community service activities **ARE** applicable.

**NOTE:** Traditional counselor-in-training positions in for-profit camps are **NOT** applicable.

**Charity Walks.** Each charity walk is assigned a specific number of service hours for completing the walk, provided the student solicits pledges. Walking in solidarity without raising money for the cause will not earn hours. In addition, extra hours may be earned by fund-raising; for every 10 pledges or \$100 (whichever works more to the student's benefit) raised, a student earns an extra half-hour of service. Copies of the pledge sheets will serve as verification.

### Activities Not Eligible for Service Credit

- Court-ordered service for individuals (e.g. friends, neighbors) without an umbrella organization
- Service-profit businesses (e.g., law firms, landscape companies)
- Participation in religious rites, services or ceremonies (e.g., altar service, choir, Torah reading), proselytizing
- Fund-raising to support religious institutions (e.g., most traditional after-school activities, unless service activities are performed)