

Saratoga High School Community Volunteer Program

(Return log and letters to Mrs. Fong by Friday, March 3, 2023)

Why Volunteer?

Service work benefits both the community and the individual. Involvement in the form of hands-on, direct service provides an opportunity for students to serve society and make an immediate impact. Here's a short list to begin thinking about the benefits of service:

- Encourages personal development and leadership skills
- Offers an exciting experience and success in new areas
- Provides an opportunity to gain new skills and discover hidden talents
- Helps to define career plans and gain job experience
- Gives exposure to and appreciation of diversity
- Expands understanding of social issues and the chance to participate in solutions
- Builds relations outside of school and offers new perspectives
- Enhances classroom learning through application of academics
- Allows you to meet interesting people with similar interests.

Many companies encourage their employees to participate in volunteer programs. Cisco, for example, has numerous programs for their employees. Cisco's philanthropy programs are anchored in the belief that "...building strong and productive global communities – communities in which every individual has the means to live, the opportunity to learn, and the chance to give back. Any one of these essentials is enough to make a difference in the present, but it takes all three to set in motion an enduring cycle of health and prosperity."

What Qualifies as Community Service?

A wide variety of services may be performed. Keep in mind that certain kinds of service do not qualify towards recognition, i.e. doing yard work for your grandparents, babysitting younger siblings or other family members. Also service time spent for credit in an SHS class is not acceptable. Here are some examples that qualify:

- Working with the Elderly
- Volunteering at a non-profit day care center
- Working at emergency food or housing programs
- Performing hospital work
- Joining environmental cleanup and restoration projects

How to Get started?

Print out the service organization's booklet and Community Service hours log and get started. Additional sources can be found online. **Incoming 9th grade students may begin earning hours immediately following their 8th grade graduation.**

Oprah Winfrey said "I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint – and the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you."

Community Service Details

(Reminder: Deadline to submit forms to Mrs. Fong is Friday March 3, 2023)

To receive High School recognition for community service hours, you must do the following:

- Perform a minimum of 100 qualified hours of service over your 4 years in High School.
- Community service hours are those that are above and beyond those required for class participation.
- For each agency where you volunteer, request a letter on their letterhead indicating your name, the number of hours spent, dates and what you did. Make sure it is signed by a representative. Complete the Community service log and attach a copy of the letter to it.
- Please make a copy of your letters and certificates and turn them in with the completed log form on the next page to Mrs. Fong in Guidance by Friday March 3, 2023. Seniors MUST meet this deadline in order to receive recognition.

Students, did you know:

- Making a commitment to a volunteer position shows maturity, self-assurance, enthusiasm and responsibility.
- Many Colleges and employers recognize this and encourage service activities. When you work within your own community you are providing a helping hand to someone who needs it, and learning to support others.
- Students who average 25 hours per year will be recognized at Senior Awards Night.

