



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF WESTERN NEW YORK

School & Community Service Definition, Examples and Requirements

"Love desires to benefit others at the expense of self, because love desires to give."

Dr. Edwin Louis Cole

The powerful, rich, and famous of this world gather around themselves servants (though they'd use words like aides, domestics, assistants, or even executive assistants) to wait on them and carry out their desires. In opposition to this, Christ Jesus, even with his unmatched power, glory, and authority described *himself* as a servant: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28). And his works matched his words! If we, as members of his Body, are to display the character of Christ to our generation, then we too need to serve and give of ourselves to benefit others. Therefore, in addition to the academic requirements we place on our students, CAWNY requires them to earn $\frac{1}{4}$ credit in school & community service for each high school year that they attend here. The following sections elaborate on this requirement.

What counts as community service?

"Community service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others outside of your immediate family, but without pay, compensation, or benefit to yourself; it is a gift of time; volunteerism."

Based on this definition, here are some examples of what does and does not count towards community service hours. If you are unsure whether an activity qualifies, see an Administrator.

Examples of hours that count:

- Volunteering for a non-profit organization (e.g., food/clothing bank, church, school, animal shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Care Net, etc.)
- Volunteering at a hospital or nursing home (the only for-profit organizations)
- Helping school staff that you are not enrolled with or receiving credit from
- Volunteering for a race (e.g., passing out water, helping with organization, etc.)
- If your club or group participates in a service project (e.g., neighborhood cleanup, car wash to raise funds, etc.) then you may count the time, *unless* the funds you raise benefit *you*
- Activities on behalf of a candidate for public office
- Fundraising activities for non-profit organizations or charities
- Hours spent voluntarily coaching youth sports
- Services performed at non-profit athletic, VBS, or music camps for no financial compensation
- Tutoring when sponsored by a community organization or performed at a school under the supervision of an adult, preferably a teacher
- Volunteering as a teacher aide for an elementary classroom
- Housekeeping in the school or your home church

Examples of hours that would *not* count:

- Helping a family member with chores
- Babysitting
- Helping a non-family member with chores without PRIOR approval from a CAWNY administrator
- Volunteering at a for-profit organization
- Attending required meetings
- Donations of goods or money
- Participation in a club, sport, or school activity (e.g., Student Council, NHS, volleyball, etc.)
- Participation in athletics or performing arts regularly scheduled practices, games, performances, or competitions does not constitute volunteer service under this program (e.g., community theater productions)
- Attendance at conferences and competitions
- Anything for which you are paid money or receive some compensation or personal benefit
- Service performed because of disciplinary action taken by the school or courts cannot count
- Membership on an athletic team, chorus or participating in the school play are considered school activities and do not meet the definition of service to the community
- Volunteer service involving academic requirements for a class (e.g., your senior Participation in Government requirement)
- Service rendered as a prerequisite for employment

How do you earn hours?

The School Office Manager will keep track of all your approved service hours. You may start earning hours the summer before your freshman year. When you perform any service activity, you must fill out a Community Service Log Sheet, bring it to the volunteering site, and have the adult in charge of the activity fill in the time spent, duties performed, and sign the form. Make sure the form is complete, then turn it into the main office. Forms must be complete and have signatures.

When must I submit my volunteer times?

Summer hours are due to the office by the end of the second week of school in September. All other hours are due within two weeks of when the service was completed.

How many hours must you complete to earn the diploma?

You must earn a total of 1,500 minutes (25 hours) per year. Each 1,500 minutes earns $\frac{1}{4}$ credit towards your diploma. Students who join CAWNY after the beginning of 9th grade must speak with an administrator to confirm how much time is required. While students are strongly encouraged to make service to others a regular practice, we will not give more than 1 HS credit to any student.

High School Student's Signature

Parent's Signature