

Service



Learning!



What is Service Learning?
Students involved in authentic and
meaningful service to their
communities.

Why are FCPS students doing this?

1. Service Learning is a Fairfax County Public Schools initiative as part of the three Student Achievement Goals, and falls under Goal 3 – Responsibility to the Community
2. Participating in Service Learning is viewed as part of a student's personal growth, with the hope that contributing to the welfare of the community will provide self-fulfillment and will become lifelong habit.

All students will complete service learning hours as follows:

7th grade – 10 hours

8th grade – 15 hours

9th grade 10 hours

10th grade 10 hours

11th grade 10 hours

12th grade 15 hours

What activities count as Service Learning?

There are three types:

1. Direct Service – students work directly with people who need help – young people, senior citizens, sick or disabled people, immigrants, the homeless.
2. Indirect Service – students help with efforts to improve their community – collecting food & clothing, helping with fundraisers, beautifying their neighborhood, helping with conservation efforts
3. Advocacy – Informing the public about areas of need, speaking on behalf of people who need help, working with political organizations

Direct Service — this service directly affects or includes the recipient(s):

- Working with youth through education and recreation programs
- Working with senior citizens
- Working with sick or disabled individuals
- Working with immigrant populations
- Preparing and serving food for others
- Tutoring young children

Indirect Service — this service benefits the environment or the community:

- Collecting or distributing food items or clothing
- Organizing benefits for special causes or events
- Engaging in neighborhood beautification projects
- Engaging in local conservation efforts
- Constructing ramps to benefit the disabled
- Restoring a wetlands area

- **Advocacy or Research — this service educates and promotes action on public interests:**
 - Informing the public about a variety of issues through FCPS 24-7 Blackboard sites, video-streaming sites, or protected Internet sites
 - Working with local political organizations
 - Advocating on behalf of underrepresented segments of the community
 - Making a speech on a public issue
 - Developing and conducting surveys or studies on a public interest area
 - Conducting experiments

High School Ideas:

- Service learning activities through government class projects
- SGA projects
- Club- and organization-sponsored projects
- Individual service learning projects
- Unpaid political or election activities
- Engage in activities posted on the Volunteer Fairfax website

Additional Ideas:

- Students who perform service hours for the different honor societies and other organizations at our school will also be able to claim those hours as part of their Service Learning goal, as long as the work completed meets all the requirements of Service Learning.

Some examples of Service Learning:

<http://www.fcps.edu/is/servicelearning/opportunities.shtml>

What activities do *not* count as Service Learning?

- Any activity you get paid for doing
- Any activity you get academic credit for doing
- Any activity you do for your family
- Any activity carried on in connection with a religious organization that only benefits that organization
- Any work on done for a teacher that is not instruction-based, or does not give back to the whole school

How do you report your service hours?

- Students in all grades will turn in hours to their 7th Period Flex teacher.

And...

- Students in grade 12 will also turn in the same hours to their Social Studies teacher.
- Hours will be accounted for in a **TBA manner...**

What are the steps for students to complete their Service Learning?

1. Plan the activities in which you will participate and inform your 7th Period Flex teacher about your plans.
2. Complete the hours and get your Service Learning paper signed by the adult in charge of the activity.
3. Fill in the required information and complete the reflection piece in Family Connections.
4. Turn the paper in to your 7th Period Flex teacher for inclusion in your Service Learning portfolio.
5. Enter the activity in the Log in the portfolio.

When can students do their service hours?

- All year long! Hours completed during the summer months count too!
- Service Learning papers can be downloaded from Blackboard, or obtained from your 7th Period Flex Teacher.

- Students who participate in service learning and earn 40 (30?) hours may be eligible for a service learning recognition cord at graduation.
- Students who earn 50 hours or more may earn the Virginia Board of Education diploma seal for excellence in civics education. **And a special civics seal cord?**

When planning activities, ask, is my service...

- meeting a real need in the community?
- thoughtful and well-planned?
- bringing classroom learning to life?
- important to me?
- making a difference in the community?
- a part of me that will continue to grow?