



Evangelical Christian School Community Service Guidelines 2009-2010 Grades 7-12

Community service is a part of the Bible class requirement for all ECS students. Students in grades 9-12 are required to spend 10 hours in community service each quarter. Students in grades 7-8 are required to spend 5 hours in community service each quarter. These service projects must be served in the community. Service hours performed during the summer may be used for the coming school year; however **only half of the required hours each quarter can come from a single project**. An example of this would be the high school student who helped at the church day camp for 40 hours during the summer. The student could receive 5 hours for each quarter for this activity, but would still have to do 5 hours of service somewhere else each quarter.

The goal of requiring students to participate in community service is two-fold:

1. To assist the student in learning how to look for opportunities to reach out to the community and share the love of Jesus through acts of service.
2. To help the student discover the joy of a caring and compassionate heart.
3. To motivate the student to see there are many opportunities to serve others.

The student will receive a test grade of 100 for completing the required number of hours each quarter. The student who serves fewer than the required number of hours will receive a proportionate percentage as a test grade, i.e. in high school 7 hours = 70%; in grades 7-8, 3 hours = 60%.

Guidelines

1. The service cannot be performed for a family member.
2. The student **cannot receive payment** for this service.
3. Students should **have projects pre-approved by the Bible teacher**.
4. **Use variety** in your choice of projects.
5. **Approved service** examples:
 - a. Do chores for a neighbor such as yard work, painting, repairs, taking them grocery shopping, etc.
 - b. Participate in church related activities that do not occur during regular service times, such as visitation, evangelism activities, right to life activities, working around the church cleaning or serving in some capacity, etc.
 - c. Volunteer at a hospital, nursing home, orphanage, soup kitchen, or any other charitable organization.
 - d. Baby sit for someone other than a family member.
 - e. Be a teacher's aid for 5-hours/quarter credit.
 - f. Participate in a mission's trip that occurs outside of school time. (Must submit a written summary of the work done and the hours contributed.)
 - g. Use any of the following school related activities; mentoring, tutoring, helping out with the sports programs, helping teachers with cleaning, working in the snack bar, helping run camps, etc. **Any of these or related topics must be done outside of school hours. Nothing done during regular school hours will be accepted as community service.**
 - h. Participate in heart walks, Right to Life walks, cancer walks, etc., or any other fundraiser for a charitable cause.
 - i. Work for Habitat for Humanity, or any other charitable organization needing manual labor.
 - j. **Any other project than those listed here must have Bible Teacher prior approval or they will be rejected without recourse.**
6. **Examples of unacceptable service:**
 - k. Singing in a choir
 - l. Attending an event such as a concert or youth retreat
 - m. Cleaning the garage for your grandparents
 - n. Leadership trips
 - o. Giving a friend a ride
 - p. Involvement in the school musical
 - q. Any activity done at or for the school during school hours

Due Dates for each quarter: September 24, December 4, March 4, and May 14

Bible teachers are the final authority on what service is acceptable and can answer any questions.