

Community Service Program

Community service can help any group of people in need: children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, English language learners, and more. It can also help animals, such as those at a shelter, and it can be used to improve places, such as a local park, historic building, or scenic area as well. Community service is often organized through a local group, such as a place of worship, or non-profit organization. You can also start your own community service projects.

CGHS CS program was created to encourage students to get out into the community and help others who are less fortunate.

Every student at Cedar Grove High School is encouraged to complete a specific number of volunteer hours by the end of each 3rd marking period. Students will be rewarded with a luncheon at the end of the year along with a cord at graduation for completing the following hours during each term. The following hours are expected:

Freshmen: 10 hours

Sophomores: 10 hours

Juniors: 15 hours

Seniors: 15 hours

In order to receive an invitation to the luncheon, each student will need to complete the specific number of hours each year. You must complete hours each year in order to receive a cord at graduation.

Requirements and Expectations:

1. Perform and complete the work for neither money nor credit.
2. List hours in Naviance/x2VOL. Students will access x2VOL through Naviance. The student will scroll down to the bottom where they will find x2VOL under “Resources To Get Ready.”
3. Students will be required to record their hours no later than 48 hours after completion or those hours will not be approved and will not count. Students can use the app to log hours, but will still need to log in from a computer to look at the dashboard to receive updates, reminders, and important due dates.
4. Make sure the adult that is supervising submits or provides their validation that day.
5. Perform community service outside of regular school hours.
6. Participation in performances, festivals or competitions does not count as volunteer service unless:
 - a. The performance meets an identified community service need and there is no admission charge or donation accepted at the performance
 - b. The performance does not promote the sponsoring event and
 - c. Neither the student organization nor the sponsoring organization receives any form of payment for the performance
7. Community service hours completed for other school organizations/clubs will not be counted.

There will be community service recommendations on x2VOL. Should the student have any questions about what is an acceptable type of service or organization, they should speak with the Student Assistance Counselor and/or the School Counselors. The student will be responsible for making the arrangements to complete their community service. You may serve as many hours as you like, but the minimum requirement for each grade level must be fulfilled by the end of that year’s 3rd marking period.

There are hundreds of ways to participate in community service, including but not limited to:

- **Working with senior citizens:** Visiting residents of a retirement center, delivering meals to senior citizens, driving them to appointments
- **Improving the environment:** Holding a recycling contest, planting trees, creating a new trail at a nature center
- **Helping low-income people:** Passing out food at a soup kitchen, collecting used clothes to be donated, making first aid kits for homeless shelters.

CGHS Community Service FAQ's:

1. How many hours do I need each year? What do I receive at the end?

- a. Freshmen and Sophomores = 10 hours per year
- b. Juniors and Seniors = 15 hours per year
- c. Students who complete the yearly amount of hours will be invited to a Community Service Luncheon. **In order to receive an Honor Cord at graduation, students must be invited to the luncheon all four years of their high school career.** However, new students only have to meet the requirement for the amount of years they have left at CGHS and be invited to the luncheon to receive the honor cord.

2. What is the time period for obtaining hours?

- a. The time period for obtaining hours is from the beginning of the school year, until the end of the 3rd marking period for that particular school year.

3. Where can community service hours be completed?

- a. Local farms, community centers, nursing homes, specific church events, food pantries, hospitals etc.
- b. Non-profits and other organizations can post opportunities directly on x2VOL, as well as Mrs. DeFabiis, Mrs. Denman & Ms. Rubino. You are more than welcome to search for your own opportunities, in addition to those that will be provided as suggestions on x2VOL.

4. Can I work for a local business?

- a. No, community service hours do not count for credit, nor pay, and working for a local business goes against that.

5. How do I record my hours?

- a. Log into your x2VOL account through Naviance within 48 hours of completing your service. If your hours are not logged within this time frame, ***they will not count towards your 10 or 15 hour goal.***

6. Does community service performed for National Honor Society/Societies count?

- a. Unfortunately no, you cannot “double dip” your hours. This community service program challenges students to go “above and beyond” what is required of them for clubs/honor societies.

7. What DOES NOT count as community service hours?

- a. Participation in performances, festivals or competitions does not count as volunteer service unless:
 - i. The performance meets an identified community service need and there is no admission charge or donation accepted at the performance.
 - ii. The performance does not promote the sponsoring event and neither the student organization nor the sponsoring organization receives any form of payment for the performance.
- b. School functions that make a profit and no school or school sport related event/fundraiser.
- c. Art crew or any other school sponsored club
- d. Assisting with school plays in the high school or middle school
- e. Tutoring
- f. Certain activities within the church such as volunteering your time in a mass, watching children in a daycare, or teaching CCD.

8. What if my volunteer work does not count towards the Community Service Program?

- a. Should a student complete a service that is not eligible for the program, they can submit/resubmit their hours under the “Volunteer Hours” Group. Although a student will not receive credit for the community service program, this group will give them the opportunity to record hours that they have put their time and effort into.