



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Founded in the Episcopal tradition, St. Paul's School for Girls embraces service and outreach as major components of its program and encourages all girls to participate. In the fall of 2006, the Stewardship Council, composed of students, faculty, alumnae, parents, and friends of the school, was created to better organize and structure all the many service opportunities and projects. The community service program, including the requirement for graduation, was incorporated under the umbrella of the Stewardship Council.

Established 20 years ago through the efforts of students, the community service graduation requirement has changed over the years. In 2007, the Stewardship Council, after careful review and much discussion, made some minor adjustments to the community service program.

Key points include:

- The community service graduation requirement is 60 hours total, which are broken down into two categories: direct and indirect service hours. Of the 60 total hours, 40 must be direct service hours and 20 can be indirect service hours.
- Direct service hours must be completed within one agency or program and requires a hands-on, personal commitment to people who have a specific and often acute need. Examples would be volunteering in a homeless shelter, food kitchen, hospital, senior center. Approved service learning trips can also fulfill the 40-hour direct service hour requirement.
- To fulfill the 40 hours of direct service, students are encouraged to step out of their “comfort zone” when volunteering. Singing in a church choir or working at schools are examples of projects that are not venues for community service hours.
- Up to 20 hours may be in indirect volunteer service. Indirect volunteer service supports those giving direct service. These hours may be earned doing clerical work for a service organization, participating in a walk/run to raise awareness of a cause or need, or making phone calls on behalf of a charity. Other examples of indirect hours are those which help the community, but may not serve those in acute need and/or do not offer ongoing relationships. Examples might include

helping plan a drive, working in a vacation Bible School, or volunteering at a blood drive.

- A list of pre-approved sites to earn community service hours is on the LMS in the Community Service page under “Student Groups.” If a student wants to serve with an organization not listed, she must submit a proposal to Reverend Ballenger for approval. If there is need for more discussion, the proposal will be presented to the Stewardship Council for approval. **Hours will not be given for projects not listed on the web or not approved in advance, or community service projects for which the student was paid.**
- Seniors must have completed the community service requirement to receive senior privileges when they go into effect.
- Juniors must complete $\frac{3}{4}$ of the community service requirement (45 hours) by January to run for a school-wide or class office.
- Following each service opportunity, a student must complete a Community Service Credit Form (which is available in the Upper School office.) This form must be signed by the supervisor and Reverend Ballenger before it is finally submitted to Ms. Mangan in the Upper School Office. (In Fall 2016, we are transitioning to an online system, X2VOL to track all service learning hours.)
- **Students may begin working towards their community service requirements the summer before ninth grade.**

If you have any questions, please contact Reverend Ballenger (sballenger@spsfg.org) at any time. We all look forward to working with our students as they volunteer to help others and learn the importance of service and outreach in their lives.