



WHAT IS VOLUNTEER SERVICE?

BRAVES

Volunteer service can mean different things to different people. Here at Deer Path Middle School, volunteer service is defined as any work done for the benefit of others without any direct financial, material, or personal compensation or gain. Below are some guidelines to help you determine what qualifies as volunteer service at Deer Path Middle School:

Attendance at a regular service club organizational meeting does not count as volunteer hours unless the meeting is used to perform a community service. For example, meeting at the Open Lands to do environmental work is considered volunteer service.

Volunteer work done to receive extra credit in a class does not count as community service. Likewise, students who belong to a non-service oriented club or team who are required to perform volunteer work in order to participate in that club or team cannot count those hours as volunteer service.

Volunteer work that can be considered job training or done for the purposes of career development is not considered volunteer service. For example, an internship is not considered volunteer service. In addition, volunteering to direct or act in a play for a paying audience is not volunteer service.

Training hours that are required for performing a volunteer position do not count as volunteer service. For example, the training required for Student-to-Student (STS) does not count as volunteer service.

A student who participates in Band, Orchestra or Chorus, or any other group that performs for the community must document each performance. Practice and rehearsal time and performances at country clubs or private parties do not count as volunteer service. In addition, students cannot receive extra credit in these classes and claim these performances as volunteer service.

Being a Counselor in Training (CIT) is not volunteer service when being a CIT is a prerequisite for being hired as a Counselor in future years or if you receive the benefits of participating in the camp activities by serving as a CIT. In addition, a maximum of 40 hours will be credited for CIT per year.

Volunteer work for the benefit of a church is not considered community volunteer service because the people who benefit are strictly members of the church. For example, being an altar server, an acolyte, a Sunday school teacher, or performing music during a religious service does not count as volunteer service. However, participation in community outreach (soup kitchen, food drives, etc) sponsored by the church does constitute community volunteer service. Likewise, volunteer work performed on a church sponsored mission trip does count as volunteer service, but typically only counts for up to 8 hours a day of work. Travel time for a mission trip does not count as volunteer service.

Volunteer work done as a requirement for a Boy Scout award or Girl Scout award or for rank advancement or for a badge does not count as volunteer service. For example, work hours spent on your own Eagle project does not count as volunteer service, but work hours spent helping a fellow Scout on his Eagle project does count.

Volunteer hours spent for Tech Crew in support of a normal Deer Path Middle School production do not count as volunteer service. However, hours spent to support the Talent Show, an APT fundraiser, do count as volunteer service. In addition, volunteer tech crew hours to support a meeting or event at the school, without any pay, do count as volunteer service.

Hours spent planning or preparing for a community event do not count as volunteer service when they are done during attendance at a club meeting. Hours spent planning or preparing outside of a club meeting, however, do count.

Volunteer work done for family members does not count as volunteer service. For example, shoveling snow for your family for free, or baby-sitting your cousins for free, or planning a birthday party for a grandparent does not count as volunteer service.

Time spent traveling to perform volunteer service does not count as volunteer service hours. For example, if you volunteer at a food pantry in Chicago, the time spent working in the pantry counts as volunteer service, but the time spent driving to and from Chicago does not count.