

## How do I know if the activity qualifies?

- Is the activity for a non-profit, 501c group?
- Is the activity for a political party or for a candidate for public office?
- Is the activity for a religious group, but does not involve religious instruction or work on religious materials?

**NOTE:** The fact that you did what you thought would meet the Community Service requirements, or what someone "says" will qualify, does not mean it will be accepted without prior approval! Check with your Citizenship Issues teacher or high school Social Studies Department Chair.

**YOU can help LPS provide students with the opportunities to develop to their greatest potential by helping them meet the following Student Goal:**

*"Students will demonstrate the knowledge, skills and attitudes essential for living in a democracy and becoming a contributing member of society."*

**MODEL** the philosophy of Community Service by becoming involved in the community yourself

**ENCOURAGE** students to become involved in the community outside the educational system by providing Community Service opportunities which meet the criteria.

**SUBMIT** your request/description for community service volunteers in writing to the high school department chair or district Curriculum Specialist for Social Studies.

**Remember:** if your request meets the guidelines, students will be informed of the opportunity. However, students choose their own area of Community Service and LPS cannot guarantee a pool of volunteers for any request.

*...every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty.*

**John D. Rockefeller Jr.**

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## *Community Service* Graduation Requirements



- 20 Hours of Civic, Community, or Humanitarian Activity
- Opportunity to Serve as a Contributing Member of Society
- Active Involvement in Public Issues and Concerns

*Life's most persistent and urgent question is:*

*"What are you doing for others?"*

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

# What is Community Service?

Community Service is defined as a non-paid activity done by students for non-profit organizations or groups. The purpose of the activity is directed toward:

- Humanitarian stewardship

Students may work for a humanitarian campaign sponsored by the local United Nations Committee, the YMCA, the YWCA, or a religious institution. However, religious instruction is not an approved activity.

- Political campaigning

Students may become involved in the election process, including: political campaigns at all levels, events associated with the political process, or activity related to public initiatives.

- Civic or Community Involvement

Students may become involved in public issues and concerns.

## When can the 20-hour requirement be completed?

Students usually complete the 20 hours of Community Service required for graduation before or the semester in which they are registered for Citizenship Issues Class. Some students work on the Community Service requirement during the summer prior to the senior year.

## What Activities Qualify for the LPS 20-hour Community Service Requirement?

Credit for Community Service must be earned in activities outside of the school day and unrelated to a school program.

### Examples which qualify:

- working with agencies listed in the Citizenship Issues Directory of Volunteer Opportunities for Youth.

[http://www.lps.org/instruction/curr/socst/ci\\_directory.html](http://www.lps.org/instruction/curr/socst/ci_directory.html)

- working for political parties
- working with youth groups, teams or camps
- serving as a member of a civic committee
- assisting with the Lincoln Public Library Summer Reading Program (including those conducted in LPS Media Centers)
- serving as commissioner or on the Student Vote Committee
- registering student voters
- volunteering for agencies or groups with 501c status.

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

**Margaret Mead, noted anthropologist**

## What Activities do NOT Qualify for the Community Service Requirement?

### Examples which do not qualify:

- working with for-profit organizations
- working during regularly scheduled class time
- working in an activity for which the student receives pay
- working in an activity for which the student receives credit in another class
- working for a neighbor, friend, or relative. The only exception is for the student who is involved in a tutoring/mentoring program directed by a VIP or non-profit agency.
- providing religious instruction or practice; preparing religious materials
- participating or helping with any school sponsored performing or competitive event (i.e. interscholastic athletics, debate tournaments, school plays, team sports, school clubs, musical groups, school concessions, fund-raising, filming school activities/ events, donating blood at a blood bank or helping the Red Cross operate blood drives at school)

- assisting certified or classified staff at any level in LPS (i.e. grading papers, clerical work, setting up classrooms or bulletin boards, moving equipment, unpacking or storing supplies, cleaning). The only exception is for the student who is involved in an approved tutoring program in which they provide direct service to another student