

Portage Central High School's Community Service Award

For volunteer ideas, check out the volunteer board outside of room #3110 Mrs. Laurencig's eboard, or the PCHS website. In addition, you may also go to the VolunTEENS website at www.volunteerkalamazoo.org and see what they have to offer.

Requirements for the award are listed below for your convenience:

Two different levels of the award are available:

1. Blue Community Service Award (blue cord)

Presented at the Senior Awards Ceremony to seniors who have completed a minimum of 200 hours of community service by April 15th of their graduating year.

2. Gold Community Service Award (gold pin)

In an effort to encourage students to complete volunteer hours on a regular basis, an additional award can be earned. This award will be presented to students who, by the spring of each year have completed a minimum of 50 hours service in that school year.

Requirements to earn the awards:

- Completion of a minimum of 200 hours of community service by April 15th of their graduating year (for the blue award), or 50 hours of community service in the current year (for the gold award).
- In order to be considered, hours must be recorded on a Portage Central High School Volunteer Service Form designed solely for this purpose. These forms are located in the Blue and Gold offices, Counseling office, Mrs. Laurencig's room #213, or her eboard site.
- A separate form must be completed for each activity. Forms should be turned in to Mrs. Laurencig **no later than 2 weeks after the completion of the activity in order to be eligible**. Summer is an exception to this rule. Listen to the school announcements when school starts for the summer hours deadline.
- Hours from Rotary Club, National Honor Society and CAS **can** be counted towards the required number of hours, but a PCHS Volunteer Service Form must be filled out and turned in separate from any forms required by the above mentioned organizations.

Completing the forms:

- All blanks on the form should be filled in completely.
- An adult in charge of the activity and who is not a relative must sign the form.
- Students (not parents) should complete these forms.

What is NOT eligible as community service

- Any activity that is a requirement for a class.
- Any activity for which you are paid.

- Any activity that involves proselytizing or evangelizing.
Ex. Teaching Sunday school
- Hours spent traveling, sleeping or not directly participating in a service project.

What is appropriate community service?

- Activities that offer the opportunity to improve the condition of a member or members of our school, community, country or the world.
- Activities that are designed to help people who are less fortunate.

Examples of accepted community service?

- Habitat for humanity
 - Volunteering at a nursing home, the library, PCOC, or a hospital
 - Mission trips (counting only the time of actual service)
 - Disaster relief efforts
 - Youth group activities such as shoveling snow for the elderly
 - Focus on safety bus program
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- Questions? Call 323-5220