

Strengthening Service as a Core Value at All Saints Academy

Guidelines for Parents

From Kindergarten through 8th grade, ASA students are expected to increasingly demonstrate their “love for neighbor” by serving others. Service is one of ASA’s core values and is a part of life both outside and within school.

As a parent, you are encouraged to assist your child to meet yearly expectations for service at their designated grade level:

- K-3 – 1 hour
- 4th – 2 hours
- 5th -- 3 hours
- 6th -- 5 hours
- 7th – 10 hours
- 8th – 20 hours
 - To be inducted into the Saint Francis of Assisi Society 8th graders must log 30 or more service hours
 - To receive the Saint Teresa of Calcutta Award 8th graders must log 40 or more service hours

Talk to your child about service and help them come up with ideas of how they might fulfill their requirement. When they have completed a service activity, be sure they [enter their hours online](#).

What Counts for Service

Working on an (after) school based service project such as helping a coach with sports team practices, working in a community garden, parish fish fries, parish festivals, engaging in a work of mercy such as visiting someone in a nursing home or hospital, attending a funeral, sending a get-well card to someone who is ill, helping pack parish food baskets at holiday time, volunteering to read stories to children outside school time.

Walk-A-Thons may be counted for the actual hours that you participate but only if you are making a minimum \$15 financial contribution, as the intent of the walks is primarily fundraising for a worthy cause.

Mentorship projects such as reading to children, helping group leaders with club activities for younger children, helping scout masters with activities for younger scouts, helping the coach with children’s sports teams, etc.

Help serving or cleaning up after coffee hours or gatherings at Church.

Leadership training that takes place outside of school (only time spent in workshops may count).

Time spent on in-depth research for some aspect of your service project (up to 3 hours), such as hunger, homelessness, immigration, disabilities, or other social issues.

Join adults for park, river bank, playground, roadside, Church parking lot, or community clean-up days.

Pass out flyers house-to-house on your street prior to Election Day.

Faith-based activities that include such things as helping volunteers who teach Sunday School, CCD, First Communion preparation, Vacation Bible School.

Painting and cleaning the church, especially before major feasts.

Community-based youth group service projects.

Make a treat (such as rice krispy bars or trail mix) and deliver it to a shut-in relative, family friend, or neighbor.

Volunteer to shovel the walk or rake leaves for an elderly or ill neighbor – do not take payment.

Make a get-well card or write a note and send it to someone who is in the hospital, nursing home, or at home.

Volunteer (without pay) to walk the dog or take care of a pet for a neighbor who is unable – such as if they are hospitalized or break a foot/leg.

What Does Not Count?

Something done for your family such as painting your house, moving, or visiting a grandparent (visiting is usually a social time, rather than service).

Activities done for able-bodied neighbors such as moving, painting, and lawn care.

Managing or being on an athletic team, being an announcer (for sports teams or the school's morning announcements) or stage crew are considered extra-curricular activities and do not meet the definition of service to the community.

Activities where you pay to learn a skill or craft (dance, filmmaking, athletics).

Hosting a foreign exchange student.

Working for a profit-based business even if you are not paid.

Babysitting for pay.

A contribution to a collection drive such as prom gowns, books, soda tabs, coats, food, and toiletries. An exception is a toy donation of \$5.00 or more for Toys for Tots (one hour) out of the child's allowance or "savings."

Activities that take place during a normal worship service such as ushering, participation in choir, playing music for a service, or other worship activities.