

THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Service Hour Guidelines and Requirements

Hours by Award

There are three levels based on the volunteer's age and the number of hours earned during a one-year period beginning October 1st and ending September 30th of the following year. Hours are measured over a 12-month period and awards are designated based on cumulative hours. The awards are offered in multiple levels and designed to recognize each milestone of your service achievement. Levels include bronze, silver, gold and the highest honor, the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for those who contribute more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetime.

Service Hour Rules

- 1) PVSA Applications with a completed hour log must be turned in to GSHNC by Nov 30th. You are welcome to turn in your application and log early.
- 2) Be certain your activity qualifies! Volunteering is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time or services. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. While singing in the choir, practicing an instrument, participating in sports or dancing are all worthwhile activities, their primary focus is skill development rather than being altruistic in nature. Ultimately, it is up to the certifying organization, Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council to determine which activities qualify for the PVSA. If you are unsure that your activity qualifies, confirm with GSHNC in advance. Please see the *"What Counts for PVSA"* chart for examples of the types of activities that do and do not qualify.
- 3) List each day with activity performed and time spent on each line. For a recurring activity, such as a week-long activity like Day Camp, you may list dates and total hours on one line.
- 4) Travel time may be submitted as qualifying time with a max of 9 hours per day.
- 5) Maximum allowed per day for any volunteer activity is 9 hours per day. Time spent eating, sleeping, socializing, etc. does not qualify.
- 6) Travel stipends, transit/parking passes, membership passes, expense reimbursements and other nominal volunteer support do not negatively impact service eligibility.
- 7) Log must be approved and signed by an employee of the volunteer organization or a troop leader if it was a troop sanctioned volunteer activity.

What Counts with the PVSA?

COUNTS	DOES NOT COUNT
Volunteering to play an instrument/sing at a nursing home with residents.	Practice time to prepare to volunteer and perform at the nursing home
Volunteering as a peer mentor or as a supervised or directed by a teacher at an extracurricular* school activity. There can be no incentive provided monetarily or with grades/extra credit as this is considered payment. *May not be performed during a student's class time.	Helping a friend or classmate with homework or studying for a class.
Participating in a 5K as long as it is a fundraising event either as a runner/walker or as an event volunteer.	Participating in a 5K that is not a fundraiser (ex. "The Color Run")
Time spent raising money for a cause (lemonade stand, etc)	Donating money to a cause.
Volunteering with youth groups for community projects (Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, etc.) or participating in service activities through a school club.	Being a part of a leadership club, student council at school, Girl Scouts or as a member of a youth group/religious group. Meetings do not count.
Volunteering work with house of worship. Examples: Volunteering with children in Vacation Bible School or tutoring children in Hebrew.	Volunteer work with a religious organization may count so long as students do not proselytize. Volunteering for your house of worship when it involves participation in religious rituals does NOT count (for example: serving as an altar server, preparing or giving sermons, assisting clergy with religious rituals or services, lighting candles in synagogue, singing/dancing/performing during a religious service, etc. does not count)
Babysitting in a faith-based nursery, daycare, women or men's shelter, or community center counts.	Babysitting for friends or family or babysitting for compensation.
Volunteering with language club, or other school sponsored clubs in the community	Hosting a foreign exchange student is a wonderful thing to do, but does not count as volunteer work. Giving up your room/bed to host a missionary or other public sector worker does not count.

Preparing and delivering food or other necessities to others in need as part of a volunteer position with a community based organization counts.	Helping a friend, family member, or neighbor in crisis is a wonderful thing to do, and often is the right thing to do; however, this help does not qualify as “volunteer work” in the community.
Political lobbying or working on a political campaign	Helping with non-partisan voter registration
	Service performed as part of court-ordered community service