

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Community Service Letter Requirements - FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q. Are service hours cumulative?

A. Service hours are only good for a 1 year time period in which they can be applied to letter. Hours may be earned from Tri 3 of ending school year through Tri 2 of current school year. So an incoming 10th grader can use hours from Tri 3 of their 9th grade year through Tri 2 of their 10th grade year.

Q. Can I apply volunteer hours that are earned during NHS or other school requirements to the letter?

A. YES!

Q. Can I letter more than once?

A. YES! Students can earn up to three service letters, one each school year in grades 10-12. Only one service letter is awarded per year. Students cannot receive a service letter for years passed.

Q. Does singing in the church choir qualify as service?

A. YES! Students who sing in a church choir may use those hours for community service.

Q. Does being a teacher's assistant qualify as service?

A. YES! Students should only count time spent assisting the teacher.

Q. If I receive a stipend for my service, can I count the hours?

A. Students should not receive any money for service performed even if it's a small stipend. However, students may opt to donate any money they receive to a cause of their choice so that their time qualifies as service.

Q. How do I count my time for overnight experiences (i.e. camp counselor, mission trip, etc.)?

A. Students volunteering on a mission trip or at camp should only count hours when they are engaged in service. Sleeping hours do not count.

Q. Can I complete the service letter requirements at any point during the school year?

A. YES! Beginning in 9th grade a student can apply to letter at any time during the course of the school year. However, students must apply by the deadline if they wish to letter in a given year.

Q. If I'm a senior and I complete the service letter requirements in the fall, can I include my award on college applications?

A. YES! As soon as seniors complete the requirements they may indicate they received a service letter award on their applications and resumes as long as they have turned in all requirements to the activities office. Awards won't be distributed until the spring, however.

Q. Can both recommendations be completed by the same person if they supervised two separate service experiences?

A. The recommendations must be completed by two different people, though they may come from the same Organization.

More questions? Please contact Chad Nyberg cnyberg@isd271.org /952-806-7719 at Jefferson or Matt Hanson mhanson@isd271.org / 952-681-5047.