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.