All About the PTSA Community Service Recognition Program

Each year, the DHS PTSA recognizes seniors who have completed **60 hours or more of community service** during their high school years with a special cord at graduation and identification in the graduation program. This is a great opportunity for students to be celebrated for their hard work, commitment, and community involvement.

/// How do I submit hours?
There is a two-step process to getting credit for community service hours:

1. **Students:** Send a completed volunteer form to CS@DecaturHighPTSA.org. Keep a copy for your records.
2. **Parents/Guardians**: Go to the PTSA website and complete the form on the Community Service page. **PLEASE NOTE: You must select your student's name in the Name field for them to get credit.**

/// Other FAQs

Is community service required to graduate from DHS?
There is NO Community Service Hour requirement to graduate from Decatur High School.

Is this the same as the IBCP "Service Learning" hours?
No. The IBCP requires 50 Service-Learning hours. Students submit those hours to IBCP through a separate process.

What qualifies as community service?
Community service is defined as volunteer work for non-profits, government, or community organizations that benefits the organization or those it serves. It can also include helping with community needs outside of a formal organization. To receive credit, the following guidelines must be met:

- It must be performed without compensation to the student. Neither paid work nor court-ordered community service will be accepted.
- It must benefit at least one person other than the student or the student's relative(s).
- It must not be associated with proselytizing.

What is the deadline to submit volunteer forms and log hours?
All hours must be entered into the PTSA website by Monday, April 28, 2025, for seniors.

Does community service from middle school count?
No. The Community Service Recognition is for service hours completed from the first day of freshman year to the deadline for submission senior year.

Does community service from another school count?
If the hours were completed during your high school years, they will qualify.

Can I submit one form for multiple volunteer events?
If all the hours are with the same organization and you have all of the dates listed, it's okay to submit one form. For example, if you help pull weeds in a community garden every weekend for a month, those can be combined on one form. We do recommend submitting them as close to the volunteer date as possible.

What if I don't have an account on the PTSA website?
If you've never created an account on the PTSA website, go to the homepage and click Register/Login. You'll see an option to create an account for new users. On the next page, complete the form and you'll receive an email with a link to complete your registration. Note that the link expires in two hours. Be sure you add your student(s) to your account.

Can students log hours on the PTSA website?
Accounts on the PTSA website are tied to parent/guardian emails; however, some parents provide their login information to their students to log their hours.

Who do I contact if I need help?
Email CS@decaturhighptsa.org with any questions.

We look forward to seeing all the incredible ways our students are making a difference!