



## North Carolina Cyber Academy Community Service Requirement for Graduation Frequently Asked Questions

**Question 1:** Who is my point of contact about this requirement?

**Answer:** Hina Sharma, Social Studies Teacher, 984-217-4187; [hsharma@myncca.com](mailto:hsharma@myncca.com); <https://drsharma.youcanbook.me> I get questions everyday about volunteering and I love it! I genuinely want you to have a high quality learning experience as you volunteer. Do not hesitate to contact me.

**Question 2:** How many hours do I need?

**Answer:** NCCA requires high school students to engage in 25 hours of community service **each school year** they are enrolled at NCCA. Most seniors have 100 hours (if they were at NCCA for four years). Community service hours are prorated. For example, if you join NCCA as a junior then you only need 50 hours for graduation--25 hours during your junior year plus 25 hours during your senior year. Please note, if you enter NCCA half way through the school year (in January) instead of at the start of the school year (August), you will still need to complete 25 hours for that school year. Also, if you graduate in January (instead of June), you will need the full 25 hours for that school year.

**Question 3:** Do I have to volunteer at a nonprofit organization?

**Answer:** Please volunteer with a non-profit organization. From 2023 forward, only volunteer hours with a non-profit will count. Here are some options for [non-profits that are near you](#) (this is not an exhaustive list). Many students/parents/guardians send me an email to share where they plan to serve to collect my thoughts on it. Feel free to do so.

**Question 5:** Who should I list as my supervisor?

**Answer:** You have to serve with a nonprofit organization. So a staff member from that nonprofit will be your supervisor. A parent/guardian/any family member is not allowed to be your supervisor. Please follow these [steps](#) to properly document your service hours.

**Question 5:** When can I start?

**Answer:** If you are a high school student at NCCA, start now! :) Before you begin serving, ask your parent/guardian for their approval of each experience you engage in.

**Question 6:** I am very busy during the school year with schoolwork, sports, job, and/or other commitments. How am I supposed to complete my hours?

**Answer:** You can use the summer to accrue community service hours. You can use the hours you accrue in the summer for the previous or upcoming school year. Also, check out these [easy options](#). Only volunteer hours with a non-profit organization will count.

**Question 7:** How do I prove that I completed my community service hours?

**Answer:** Please follow these [steps](#). Submit to Dr. Sharma when you are a senior.

**Question 8:** Where can I serve?

**Answer:** A good place to find what your community needs help with is [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org); type in your zip code. I like this website because non-profits write a description of what **they** need help with. Also, there is a filter for virtual volunteer opportunities. We have many students who serve at local animal shelters, food banks, hospitals, libraries, nursing homes, Goodwill/Salvation Army, Girls and Boys Clubs, through dosomething.org, etc.

**Question 9:** I do not have transportation to complete my service hours.

**Answer:** No problem! Go online to find virtual volunteer opportunities. Look at Question 8 for ideas.

**Question 10:** May I complete my community service hours by helping out a family member (e.g., tutoring a family member, caring for an ill parent, etc)

**Answer:** No, that is considered fulfilling a family responsibility. For this requirement, our School Board would like you to engage in service in your community, outside of your immediate family, at a non-profit organization.

**Question 11:** May I do all of my hours during one school year?

**Answer:** No, our School Board would like to see documented evidence of 'sustained service' so your community service hours need to be completed every year you are enrolled at NCCA. As you grow each year, you will approach your service hours differently and learn different lessons so that is why we want the volunteer hours to be spread out throughout your time in high school.

**Question 12:** I've never heard of this requirement until now-do I have to do it?

**Answer:** Yes, all high school students have received monthly reminders from 2017 forward. All seniors have completed this requirement. No exceptions have been granted by the high school principal. I'm sorry you do not feel informed, but I can certainly help you catch up. I

guarantee we can come up with a viable solution so you can earn your diploma through NCCA. Please contact Dr. Sharma to come up with a plan of action.

**Question 13:** I am using [Free Rice](#) for my community service hours. How many grains of rice do I have to collect to equal 1 hour of community service?

**Answer:** Starting in June 2022, 2,000 grains of rice equals 1 hour of community service.

**Question 14:** Where do I share what I did?

**Answer:** In your [community service portfolio](#). It will get checked your senior year. Add your service hours to it as you move through high school.

**Question 14:** Are there any scholarships related to community service?

**Answer:** Yes, [here](#) is one of many places to search for scholarships related to service. Also, go to the website for the college/university that you are interested in and check out the “scholarships” webpage.

**Question 15:** How do I receive national recognition for all of these service hours?

**Answer:** Go to websites such as this one: <https://innerview.org/pages/awards>