



Carmel Catholic Christian Service Program

WHAT DOES COUNT AS CHRISTIAN SERVICE?

Students earn Christian Service hours through working with charitable non-profit organizations. Carmel defines charitable organizations as those structurally aimed at serving the poor, vulnerable, marginalized; or opening opportunities for all people.

- Many **charitable nonprofit organizations** are approved sites for Christian Service hours. Please consult [this document](#) for approved sites for Christian Service hours.
- **Some 501c3 organizations** align with the goals of our program while others are targeted at self maintenance. If a 501c3 organization is structurally aimed at serving the poor, vulnerable, marginalized, then it would count towards Christian Service hours.
- **Some for-profit agencies**, such as nursing homes and hospitals, clearly align with the goals of our program and therefore may receive permission from the Christian Service Coordinator to be sites for Christian Service hours.
- **Service done *with* a Carmel club or organization that *benefits the poor, vulnerable, or marginalized*** counts towards as Christian Service hours.
- **Park district or school-based sports organizations** count towards Christian Service hours as they are open to all participants and do not require a cost to participate.
- **Tutoring *completed through a specific organization or program.***
- **Fundraising for organizations if those funds are going towards a cause/organization that directly benefits the poor, vulnerable or marginalized.**
- **Service to a former grade school or partner school of Carmel Catholic as well as any parish/religious community.**
 - Includes altar serving, lectoring, cantoring, being a Eucharistic minister, etc.
- **Ecological service done through any organization.** (Animal shelters, care for creation ministry at St. Joseph's in Libertyville, the Libertyville Open Lands group, etc.). To see what types of ecological service counts, please refer to [this document](#).

Students are encouraged to email Ms. Kerger ekerger@carmelhs.org or stop by the Campus Ministry office (Room 112) for discussion regarding prospective service organizations prior to starting the service work.

WHAT DOES NOT COUNT AS CHRISTIAN SERVICE?

- **Direct service to individuals such as family, friends, or neighbors** does not count towards Christian Service hours. Although these practices are worthwhile experiences that Carmel students are encouraged to participate in, Christian Service must be completed through charitable, non-profit organizations.
- **Service done for Carmel's purposes** does not count towards Christian Service hours (e.g. summer camps, Street Scenes, Open House, tutoring other Carmel students etc.)
 - Use caution when recording service hours done with a club or organization at Carmel. Service hours done ***with*** a Carmel club or organization, that benefits the poor, vulnerable, or marginalized, ***does count*** as Christian Service. However, service hours done ***for*** a Carmel club or organization, that benefits that club or organization, ***does not count*** as Christian Service.
- **For profit companies** generally do not count as Christian Service. Some for profit agencies, such as nursing homes and hospitals, clearly align with the goals of our program and therefore may receive permission from the Christian Service Coordinator to be sites for Christian Service hours.
- **Private healthcare offices** (medical, dental, physical therapy, chiropractic, etc.) does not count as Christian Service.
- **Club sports, travel teams, or dance studios** do not count towards Christian Service hours as they are either for-profit or they charge a high cost to the participants, which limits the participants rather than opening opportunities to people in need. (e.g. Sky High Volleyball, Lake County Lightning, etc.)
- **Sponsorship non-profit/charitable programs that require payment in order to participate.** This is an equity issue as some individuals may not be able to participate due to the cost.
- **Non-profit or 501c3 organizations that are targeted towards self-maintenance** rather than benefiting the poor, vulnerable, or marginalized. Simply being non-profit or having a 501c3 does not make an organization automatically viable for Christian Service.
- **Donation based opportunities.** Students are required to donate *their time* rather than funds/items. Simply donating funds/items to an organization does not count towards Christian Service hours.
- **Online, virtual, or at home service opportunities.** These opportunities do not align with the vision of the Christian Service Program to encourage our students to personally and actively engage within their community.
- **Organizations that require their own service hours specifically for their organization or provide students separate benefits/awards for service.** Christian Service hours must be done solely for the benefit of those in need, not the benefit of the individual serving. No “double-dipping” is allowed for Christian Service hours. For example:
 - Service hours completed and logged for **NHS** does not count towards Christian Service hours.
 - Projects done for **Boy Scouts of America, Eagle Scouts, Cub Scouts or Girl Scouts** does not count towards Christian Service hours as those organizations require their own service hours/projects specifically

for their organization. These organizations also provide students separate awards for completing service projects.