

DEPARTMENT OF CAMPUS MINISTRY**FAQ about Christian Service**

General Service FAQs and Direct Service with the Poor FAQs

Who am I serving?

In response to the Lasallian Mission Assessment Visit in January 2019, the administration, faculty, Campus Minister for Mission and Ministry, and Campus Minister of Christian Life & Service decided to implement a new requirement for at least 25% of the hours students earn per year to be hours in direct service to the poor and marginalized. Persons to serve include the elderly, disabled (physically or intellectually), sick, homeless, or poor.

Why am I serving the poor/marginalized?

Learning about human dignity and social justice (among other topics) corresponds to the enactment of the principles you learn through your service hours. You are putting the corporal and spiritual works of mercy into action.

What does it mean to do DIRECT service?

It means you are interacting face-to-face with the poor/marginalized community you have chosen to serve. You are building relationships with those you are serving.

What are some examples of the types of places I could do my service hours?

- **Hospitals**
 - o Often require medical testing to ensure your health before accepting you
 - o Often requires more than a 40 hour commitment
- **Nursing homes/assisted living centers**
 - o One in nearly every neighborhood
 - o Usually flexible schedules
 - o Good for people who enjoy working one on one
- **Soup kitchens**
 - o Usually require scheduling a time slot to volunteer far in advance
- **Homeless shelters**
 - o May occasionally require parent supervision
- **Tutoring students at low-income schools**
 - o Usually involves one on one interaction
 - o After school hours available
- **Coaching kids with physical/mental disabilities**
 - o Great for students with an interest in sports

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May I do service at an animal shelter?

No. Our goal is for you to build relationships among our human community.

Can I box food/books for shipment to poor countries? What about fundraising? Or doing paperwork for a homeless shelter?

No. While this is service, it is NOT direct service. You are only indirectly helping the poor.

How do I know if the position they assign me qualifies for my required hours?

If you are getting paid, it does NOT count. The required Christian service hours are volunteer (i.e. free). If you are simply taking the place of a paid employee, the hours will not count.

How many hours do I need?

6 hours toward your 25 hour requirement.

Must I complete them all at the same service placement?

Yes.

Why?

Not only does it require a significant amount of time to build relationships, you are also making a commitment to the organization. Saint John Paul has high standards for students honoring their commitments.

May I complete them over the summer prior to my junior year?

Yes.

May I split my hours between the summer and during the school year?

Yes. Hours must be completed in the summer OR during the year.

What are extracurricular hours?

Extracurricular hours are service hours that go beyond the 25% direct service requirement.

Why would I want to record those?

All service hours will be recorded on your transcript and colleges will know that you went above and beyond what is required in terms of serving the community.

How do I find a place to do my hours?

There are several options:

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- If you know the type of service you are interested in, do an internet search for placements in your area.
- See the Campus Minister of Christian Life & Service – We can make suggestions based on your interests and location requirements.
- Make contacts during the Service Fair on September 19th, 2019.
- Talk to Seniors – ask where they did their service and what placements they recommend.
- Check the school website – it has a (non-comprehensive) list of potential placements.

How do I get my Christian Service Form signed?

DO:

- Politely call and ask for an appointment to talk or meet with the Volunteer Coordinator or other person in a position of management.
- Leave a message if no one answers with your name, contact info, and reason for calling.
- Show up to an appointment on time and well dressed.
- Ask what volunteer opportunities are available.
- Show your enthusiasm for serving the population that the organization serves.
- Ensure they have volunteer work available for you.
- Ask when and how often you can volunteer.
- Ask for a full time employee to be your supervisor, who can verify the hours once you've completed them.

DO NOT:

- Demand a meeting.
- Have your parents call or set up meetings for you.
- Ask a parent to be your supervisor, even if they work at or run the organization.
- Show up late or disheveled to appointments.
- Use an organization's failing to call you back as an excuse not to turn in your form.

How should I conduct myself at my placement site?

DO:

- Show up when you sign up.
- Be courteous and follow instructions from staff.

DO NOT:

- Fail to show up at your scheduled time for volunteering without calling and letting the organization know. They are counting on you.
- Wait until the last minute to complete your hours.