

CURRENT 10th GRADE SERVICE CLARIFICATIONS (NHS)

Those who meet academic requirements will receive applications in the **SPRING** of their **sophomore year**. In order to be considered for membership, you will have to provide evidence of **at least 30 acceptable volunteer/service** hours that come from at least **two different types of activities/places**. In other words, all hours **cannot** be from the same place or type of service. The Sachem Public Library Volunteer Services are an exemption to this rule. A max of 15 hours at one place for one type of service will be allowed. Hours must extend over a period of time longer than a **single month**, to showcase your **ongoing** commitment to community service.

Please note: the computer system only pulls students who meet eligibility; the advisors have no involvement in choosing students to apply for the NHS. A faculty council will review full applications and determine at the time of review, if your service, essay, school club/sports, and teacher recommendations represent the standards and criteria of the NHS. There are many factors that will influence a member's acceptance or denial; we suggest supplying evidence of a variety of community service **from non-profit organizations**, which has been spread over a course of time that conveys your commitment to community service. Service which occurred from the summer before grade 9 up until application deadline in grade 10 will be considered.

ACADEMICS: All members must have an **overall** weighted 90 average, as well as **an overall weighted average of a 90 in each of the academic areas**. Again, these are minimums and will not be rounded up. In addition, no student may have any course or Regents failures.

ACTIVITIES: Students must have a minimum of **two** school-based extra-curricular activities during the current school year of application (athletics and/or clubs). Any honor society club, for example Foreign Language Honor Society, will **not** fulfill this requirement. Non-school based activities will be considered on an individual basis; however, such consideration is **not** a guarantee of acceptance to fulfill this requirement. If you are using a club or sport for one of your activities, then no service for that club or sport will be permitted toward the minimum community service hours. If you are not using a club or sport as one of your two activities, then you MAY use activities from that additional club or sport toward your community service requirement.

EXAMPLES of Acceptable Service and Acceptable Verification of Service (NOT LIMITED TO)

Sachem Extended School Year Program Volunteer

Volunteer at Deepwells Farm Historical Society—a letter with specific events with times/hours of service and signed will be needed to verify service. Sweetbriar Nature Preserve in Smithtown.

Senior Citizen Homes, Nursing Homes, and some Hospital Service

Tutoring through the Sachem Public Library—a **certificate with your name** will be the only acceptable form of verification (**no personal tutoring for a family member, neighbor, or friend will count**).

Volunteering for certain non-profits, such as Special Olympics, United Way, Habitat for Humanity.

Volunteer for a local Town Park or Town Clean-Up. Must supply a dated and signed certificate for verification. Examples include but are not limited to: Lake Ronkonkoma Beach Clean-Up, Holbrook Clean-Up Days

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts—Community Service Events only, including Eagle Scouts. (meeting times do not constitute community service)

Religious and Youth group activities that benefit the community such as Hebrew School, Bible Vacation Camp, Alter server, and you must break-down the time and days and supply a signature next to each. Simply writing in 15 total hours at a mosque, church or temple with a signature will not be accepted. You need letterhead from the religious institution that specifies what you have done and when; or a chart of said service with signatures to match. Remember **15 hours max from a single institution**.

Sports Camps such as SYSL, SYAG or SSC, **but you must have verification signed by the Director of SYAG or SSC** to confirm you did in fact supply community service. **Working concession stands will not be accepted for community service.**

Soup Kitchens and Peanut Butter & Jelly Gangs; Suffolk Zone

Examples of Service that is NOT Accepted **(NOT LIMITED TO)**

Teaching dance lessons at a dance studio. Performances for charity or a benefit done with outside groups you are a part of that are not non-profits themselves.

The 30 hour famine. Not eating for 30 hours is **not** a **service** to the community.

Time at a legislative office—this is not working with the community; this is free labor.

Teaching dance at a dance school, or coaching or helping athletes in connection with a privately owned, or INC, or for profit business. This is something that **you should be paid** for as it is a **privately** owned business someone is profiting personally from and not a non-profit organization.

Going down to the middle-school to help a school employee with a job they are responsible for doing. **This includes helping librarians at the elementary schools..** Organizing agendas is **not** community service. Helping the middle school sports team with a meet, competition, practice, is not community service. Although nice, **someone is receiving a salary to do this work already.**

ANY activity you performed as part of a school club or sport that you are using for one of your school activities/clubs on your verification form. Example- Your cheer team held a cheerleader-for-a-day, or a clothing drive= not accepted. Your volleyball team went to the elementary school to teach volleyball basics= not accepted. **Community service has to be driven by you, the individual, and not a component of another club/sport.**

Any activity you participated in with connection to another honor society does not constitute community service.

Working concession stands anywhere, for anything, including **Marching Band competitions, any sporting events, or fields** (even if they are non-profit and community youth leagues) is not a service to the community.

Certain non-profits would not count such as the **Long Island Roller Derby** which is a roller derby league for women.

Volunteering at Marching Band competitions, or sporting events, **including Sachem varsity and JV sports**, is not community service. While this may be a nice gesture, it is not community service. (**with the exception of volunteer coaching that is UNPAID for through a Sachem youth league; still will receive a max of 15 hours credit though).

Teaching Music at the Atlantic Wind Symphony, or any other music organizations that is NOT a non-profit does not count. Someone is receiving payment as profit for this, and your work, although unpaid, would be considered free labor and not community service.

Counselor-In-Training hours **do not count**, nor do Political Campaigns.

You worked for a Drama Company to put on a play- unless this company is a **non-profit 501c3** and kids attend/participate **for free**, then this is considered free-labor and not community service.

Any kind of office work (including but not limited to private practices, firms, offices/businesses

Babysitting, yard work or helping a neighbor—this is kind and something you should do; however, there is no accurate way to actually verify any service proof, thus none of your thirty hours can come from this type of assistance.

If you received any pay or benefits it does not count as community service.

If you have a specific question, please see Mrs. Dieterich (Rooms D201 and A104) or Mr. Weston (Room A106).

You, the student, may also email kdieterich@sachem.edu or jweston@sachem.edu