

Sophomore A.C.T.S. Service Hours

"A Call to Serve"

"The only thing that matters is faith expressing itself through love." Gal 5:6

Dear Sophomores,

Due to the stay-at-home order and the unusual circumstances of Covid-19, we have made a few changes that apply only to the 20-21 school year. These are in the bullet points below.

- *You will still be required to complete 10 hours.*
- *You may still use a maximum of 5 hours for volunteering at Providence.*
- *You may still use the pre-approved activities listed below.*
- *You may **now** use a maximum 5 hours for helping your family or neighbors during the stay at home order. This applies only to this school year due to the unusual circumstances.*
- *In addition, you may **now** use hours for helping your community at large during the stay at home order. For example, you may have sewn masks, wrote letters of encouragement and thanks to healthcare workers or first responders, wrote letters to residents in nursing homes, helped deliver meals, packed care packages or worked a drive through food bank.*

As you know, our A.C.T.S. program here at Providence is a very important part of our mission. This program is not meant to add an additional burden to your already busy life, but to encourage the spirit of Christian service which is already being nurtured by your family, friends and faith. It is likely you are already performing acts of charity and kindness for others, and this project will help you to reflect on the importance of serving others as Christ did.

Starting in April of 2020, you may begin working toward your 10 hours of Community Service. **The deadline for the completion of your hours will be Tuesday, March 2, 2021**, and at that time all required materials must be turned in. These items include all of your onsite evaluation forms—filled out and signed by the adult in charge of the service project, and your two-page reflection paper.

Please refer to the Providence website to help you with your process! Take the following steps:

- Go to the website and find the "Augustinian" link and click "ACTS Hours".
- Find the section for "Sophomores" and there you will find:
 - This Information Sheet
 - Verification/Evaluation Form (To be filled out by the adult in charge of EACH service project you have completed)
 - A.C.T.S. Reflection Paper Instructions

Following are the steps you should follow in order to have a successful year of service and a smooth completion of the A.C.T.S. requirements:

1. **Find an opportunity for service hours.** I will have some options for you throughout the year and I will inform you via your school email, the A.C.T.S Hours bulletin board in the lunchroom, and through our school announcements so please be sure to check these methods of communication!
2. **Contact me** if you are at all uncertain about whether your hours will be acceptable. Email me or stop by room 115.
3. **Complete the service project.**
4. **Have Adult On-Site Evaluation Form filled out BEFORE you leave the site of the service.** This is a must!!!
5. **Complete all 10 service hours.**
6. **Write your two-page reflection paper and turn your all of your Verification/ Evaluation Form by the due date!** Staple your paper to the back of the Evaluation Form.

Below find lists of acceptable and non-acceptable service events:

"Pre-Approved" / Acceptable:

- ❖ Service at **Providence Catholic – ONLY 5 hours** of service may come from the following service events at PCHS: Library, Dean's Office, Pre-school etc. aides and athletic camps only. (No teacher's aides will be accepted)
- ❖ Hospitals
- ❖ Animal shelters
- ❖ Homes for the elderly – Nursing Homes
- ❖ Assisted Living Facilities, e.g.: Trinity Services—Cornerstone—Victorian Village
- ❖ Facilities for the homeless
- ❖ Re-sale shops that benefit a social cause—Goodwill, Morningstar Mission, etc.
- ❖ Churches (altar server/parish fundraisers/office help/parish clean-up or landscaping)
- ❖ Religious Education
- ❖ Vacation Bible School
- ❖ Schools—helping with Market Day, etc.
- ❖ Coaching or working the scoring table etc., at a grade school
- ❖ Assisting in Special Olympic events
- ❖ Community Libraries
- ❖ Habitat Trip/Service Trips

Non-acceptable sites/service events: (None of these are acceptable for this school year, even with the changes we made due to Covid-19. Please see the bullet points at the top of this page for details.)

- Working for "free" for a company that is "for-profit"/profitable for itself
- Volunteering for a political party or candidate
- Hours that you were assigned for "court assigned community service"

- Being a teacher's aide during a study hall here at Providence
- Hours you are already using for NHS, A.Y.M., OR S.A.V.I.

To avoid any confusion, make sure you check with me first if needed.

Our mission is to give students an opportunity to provide service to those in need, and by doing so we hope that all of our students will become outstanding contributors to the society in which we live. It is out of love in which we cultivate our desire to serve, and you have many gifts and talents to offer so many people. So go out and share the love of God with the world!

If you need any help or have any questions, please come see me or email me at any time! (Room 115 or apotempa@providencecatholic.org)

Peace,

Mrs. Potempa

Soph. A.C.T.S. Director