

CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?' And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' **The Gospel of Matthew 25:34-40**

CHRISTIAN SERVICE ORIENTATION

- I. RATIONALE FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE: SCRIPTURE AND TRADITION
- II. THE EXPERIENCE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE
- III. CCHS CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM DETAILS
 - A. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
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 - C. FORMS FOR DOCUMENTING HOURS
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THROUGH THE CCHS CHRISTIAN SERVICE REQUIREMENT, STUDENTS ARE PROVIDED A PROGRAM THROUGH WHICH THEY CAN DEVELOP THEIR GOD-GIVEN TALENTS IN SERVICE TO OTHERS. POTENTIALLY, THE CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM ALLOWS THE STUDENT TO EXPERIENCE CHRISTIANITY IN A DYNAMIC WAY BY ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES TO THEIR COMMUNITY. THIS IS A GRADUATION REQUIREMENT BECAUSE THE NATURE OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE DEMANDS IT. WE ARE CALLED BY THE GOSPELS TO THIS SERVICE.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the Christian Service Program?

The CCHS Christian Service requirement, students are provided a program through which they can develop their God-given talents in service to others. Potentially, the Christian Service Program allows the student to experience Christianity in a dynamic way by actively participating in a wide variety of service opportunities to their community and those in need. Christian service has its roots in the command of the Gospel to be of service to the needy, poor, and disadvantaged in a direct, personal, helping way.

How is Christian Service different from “Community Service?”

All “Community Service” is a good thing, and we encourage our students to always be active in giving back to their neighbors. But Christian Service on the other hand is actively and conscientiously embracing the call of the Gospels by helping those in society who are in the margins – service to the needy, poor and disadvantaged in a direct, personal helping way. The best example of Christian Service are the corporal acts of mercy.

Why is this a graduation requirement?

This is a graduation requirement because our faith and the call of the Gospels demands it. Failure to complete the requirement results in the withholding of the diploma at graduation. Failure to meet the deadline for completion of hours (the last Friday in May of the student’s junior year) results in becoming academically ineligible until the hours are completed.

How many service hours must I complete?

Each student is required to complete a minimum of sixty (60) hours of Christian service. We **suggest** students complete 20 hours each of their freshman, sophomore, and junior years for the complete 60 hours. This is just a suggestion, and student may complete their hours on their own time-schedule provided all 60 are done by the last Friday of May in their junior year.

What if I transferred to CCHS from another School?

Transfer students may submit service hours from previously attended schools provided they have the appropriate documentation (verification of hours and evaluation by supervisor) and if the hours qualify according to the CCHS understanding of Christian service. Adjustments in the number of required hours for graduation for transfer students is made in a contract through the Director of Campus Ministry. **ALL TRANSFER STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THIS FORM.**

Are there any other specifics I need to know about Christian service hours?

There are two classifications of service hours. Because the main goals of Christian Service center on the realization of what it means to give of one's self to others and to grow spiritually and emotionally from this giving, the type of service that is most meaningful for students involves direct interaction with those in need. Of the sixty (60) hours needed to satisfy the graduation requirement, at least forty (40) hours must be categorized by the Christian Service Director as **Direct** in nature. **Direct** hours are when there is person-to-person contact with the person in need. **Indirect** hours are defined as support-work, fund-raising, or only working with other volunteers. Common means of service categorized as **Indirect** include clerical/custodial work, fundraisers, marathons and walkathons, sales, animal care, school/parish/ethnic festivals or meals. No more than twenty (20) of the required sixty (60) hours are *allowed* to be **Indirect**. All 60 hours may be **DIRECT**.

Do Confirmation service hours qualify for the CCHS Christian Service Program?

No. Hours for CCHS Christian Service Program are above and beyond Confirmation hours. Students are taught that "double-dipping" is unethical.

Do liturgical ministries qualify for the CCHS Christian Service Program?

No. Liturgical ministries are what young Catholics, by virtue of their baptism, *should* be doing in their parishes.

Can I earn Christian service hours through personal hardships?

It depends. If a family friend, for example, is suffering from a serious illness, assisting them **may** count as service hours, but the student must get pre-approval from the Director of Campus Ministry before the service begins. Failure to get pre-approval may result in these particular service hours being nullified. Personal hardships that relate to family generally are not accepted, the rationale being that helping family is a given. Please consult the Director of Campus Ministry if you have questions or concerns about this.

Is babysitting or tutoring accepted as hours in the Christian Service Program?

Not on a personal basis or when assisting in a private home or business for profit. Babysitting hours are accepted from a day-care setting at a licensed **non-profit facility**, church or after-school program. Tutoring must be done under the supervision of the child's teacher, through the school, or other adult supervision.

Do civic events like parades and holiday observances or working on political campaigns qualify?

No, because this is considered your civic responsibility. Christian service has its roots in the command of the Gospel to be of service to the needy, poor and disadvantaged in a direct, personal helping way.

When do I complete Christian service hours?

Hours may be accumulated only as early as the summer before the freshman year. Proper documentation is required. Hours must be completed after school, on weekends, holidays or during the summer. **Transportation** to and from a service site is the responsibility of the student and/or parent and does not count toward the number of hours.

Where do I go to complete service hours?

Service hours are to be completed at a non-profit organization/agency. **Private residences or businesses do not qualify.** If the service opportunity you are interested in is not for a non-profit group, it must be pre-approved by the Director of Campus Ministry. Refer to the placements listed on the Direct and Indirect Categories list or the Agencies List of service opportunities given at the fall Orientation to Christian Service. Students may confer with the Director of Campus Ministry to get approval for other service opportunities of which they are aware. Christian Service opportunities may be found in the Daily Bulletin, posted on the Christian Service Bulletin Board, in the Campus Ministry Center, or on the CCHS website.

How do I document my Christian Service hours?

A GREEN student form must be filled out for each different service site accompanied by a WHITE supervisor form-evaluation. Forms are available in the Campus Ministry Center or may be downloaded from the Campus Ministry link at www.cathedralcatholic.org **Forms must be submitted within three months of completion of the service.** If service is ongoing over a period of time, forms should be submitted every three months. *Service reported after three months may not be accepted.* Both forms should be returned to the Campus Ministry Center.

Notes on Documentation:

Parents and teachers may NOT be supervisors.

It is recommended that 20 hours of service be completed and documented by the end of each of the 9th, 10th and 11th grades.

A total of 60 qualifying hours is due the last Friday of May of the Junior Year.

Some on-campus organizations and clubs engage regularly in Christian Service projects. Students must still submit the usual paper work for these hours.

It is assumed that for over-night, multiple day activities, ten hours a day are for sleep and personal time, allowing up to **fourteen (14) hours maximum per day of active service.**

Travel time to Christian Service sites does not count toward the required hours.

For more information please see the section in the Student Handbook on Christian Service or the CCHS website. Questions may be directed to the Office of Campus Ministry, at (858) 523-4000 ex1174, or email sprice@cathedralcatholic.org

DESCRIPTION OF DIRECT/INDIRECT HOURS

Direct Hours (D)

A minimum of forty (40) of the required sixty (60) hours must be fulfilled working directly with those who are in need or disadvantaged. Direct hours are service to the needy, poor, and disadvantaged in a direct, personal, helping way. All sixty (60) hours may be direct.

Indirect Hours (I)

A maximum of twenty (20) of the sixty (60) hours may be fulfilled doing work that does not involve direct interaction with those in need or disadvantaged. Common means of indirect service include: clerical/custodial work, fundraisers, marathons and walkathons, sales, animal care, school/parish/ethnic festivals or meals; Humane Society (animal care); beach/neighborhood clean-up.

Hungry, Homeless, Poor Placements

Clothing/food drive with distribution/food banks (D)
Community home repair/construction (D)
Habitat for Humanity, other housing rehabilitation and construction (D)
Half-way houses (D)
Hunger Awareness Meals; Meals on Wheels (D)
Shelters for the homeless/abused (D)
Soup kitchens (D)

Placements with the Sick (Direct Hours when there is patient contact. INDIRECT hours when offering clerical/administrative assistance.)

Hospitals and health centers (D, I)
Medical centers (D, I)
Nursing homes (D, I)
Rehabilitation centers (D, I)
Blood Drives (D when assisting donors)
Ronald McDonald Houses (D, I)
Gift shops, thrift stores (I)

Placements with the Elderly (Direct Hours when there is patient contact. INDIRECT hours when offering clerical/administrative assistance.)

Adult day-care centers (D, I)
Retirement/elderly homes (D, I)
Senior citizen centers (D, I)
Veterans hospitals (D, I)
Senior Olympics (D)

Placements with the Emotionally/Physically Disabled

Blind / Deaf persons (D)
Handicapped children's centers (D)
Homes, centers and schools for the handicapped (D)
Psychiatric hospitals (D)
Sight-impaired social events (D)
Special education athletic programs/Special Olympics (D)

Recreational Placements

After-school recreation (D)
Day/Summer camp counselors (D with students; I for prep./team mtgs.)
Park recreation programs (D)
YMCA programs (D)

Placements with Children

After-school recreation programs (D)
Boys'/Girls' clubs (D)
Boy/Girl Scout activities and leadership projects not being done for badges or awards (D)
Clerical work at schools (I)
Coaching/refereeing youth sports (D)
Day-care centers / Six-to-Six programs (D)
Maternal and child health centers (D)
Orphanages (D)
Pre-school activities (D)
Programs for disadvantaged/disabled children (D)
Teachers'aides (off-campus) (D with students; I clerical work)
Tutoring/Coaching/Refereeing (off-campus) (D) (Must go through school or agency)

Religious Placements

Church festivals/Appreciation Banquets/Lenten Suppers (I)
Religious education classes (D)
Retreat leaders (D) (I for prep/training meetings)
Youth ministry service projects (D, I)
Note: Altar serving and music ministry are not considered "Christian Service Hours." These hours are considered normal service to one's parish.

Cultural Placements

Museums (D, I)
Non-profit theater/musical performances (D)
Libraries, clerical (I)
Libraries, reading programs (D)
Cultural/ethnic festivals, banquets, etc. (I)

Fundraising Placements

Jog/Walk/Swim (athons) (I)
· (Direct hours at a Marathon ONLY if serving on the Medical Triage team.)
Fundraising Mailings / Phonathons (I)

CCHS Placements

Special Olympics (D)

Summer sports camps (D)

Tijuana Orphanage/Home building trips (D)

Math Tournament (D)

Environment/Animals

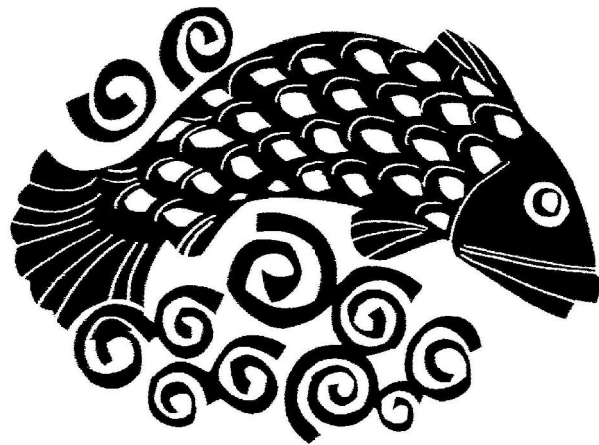
Any non-profit organization or activity (I)

Beach cleanups (I)

SPCA/Humane Society (I)

· If you have other ideas, please be sure to verify them with the Director of Campus Ministry before you begin your service.

· A Master List of Service Opportunities can be downloaded from the CCHS website.



Cathedral Catholic High School

Community Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
Let my gifts change the world.
Help us live the call,
Build the Kingdom,
Veni Sancte Spiritus. Amen