

## NHS Community Service Guidelines

Community Service is viewed differently from organization to organization. For National Honor Society, community service is voluntary work performed to benefit the community or a previously unknown individual. Carmel High School's National Honor Society members are required to complete 30 hours of community service each year. As a general guideline, the following must be true for an activity to be considered community service:

- Unpaid service
- Performed for a not-for-profit organization
- Performed to benefit the community or a previously unknown individual
- Not be a requirement of an organization to which you belong

The following are some examples of activities that are **not** considered service:

Activity	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• babysitting for a friend or neighbor for free</li> <li>• shoveling a neighbor's driveway</li> <li>• tutoring a friend</li> </ul>	These activities are encouraged and are neighborly but are not considered community service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• volunteering at a for-profit organization (ie: IBM)</li> </ul>	These activities are valuable experiences but are not considered community service.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eagle Scout Projects or participating in your church's choir</li> </ul>	If an activity is a requirement for another organization/award, it cannot also be used for NHS community service hours.

The following are some examples of activities that **are** considered service:

Activity	Rationale
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participation in FBLA volunteer activities</li> </ul>	These activities are optional for FBLA membership, not requirements.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• participating in SAS activities</li> </ul>	SAS establishes the relationship between students and classrooms in elementary buildings so that students can volunteer their time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kids' Day</li> </ul>	Serves the community at large
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotary activities</li> </ul>	Serves the community at large

A few notes:

- Community Service verification forms must be handed in within 10 school days of when the service was completed. Late forms will not be considered.
- All tutoring activities must be approved in advance and verification forms must be signed by an adult.
- NHS Community Service forms must be used to submit hours. Documentation on other forms can be attached to a National Honor Society Community Service form.
- Please remember that in order to maintain NHS membership status, 15 hours of community service must be submitted by 1:50 p.m. on 1/31/17 and the remaining 15 hours must be submitted by 1:50 p.m. on 6/1/17.
- **If you are unsure if an activity qualifies as NHS community service, you are responsible for getting approval from an advisor in advance.**