

COMMUNITY SERVICE POLICIES

At Venice Christian School, 100 hours of community service hours are required for graduation. This number of hours also fulfills the Bright Futures requirement for the Florida Academic Scholars award (highest award).

- ❖ Students may begin earning qualifying hours as early as the summer between 8th and 9th grade.
- ❖ Sarasota County School District has recently changed the rules concerning community service. VCS strives to meet and exceed the County standards. Starting June 1, 2017, to qualify for community service, VCS students must **identify** a social or civic issue, **develop a plan** for his or her personal involvement and **reflect** upon the experience.
- ❖ An Application for Approval of Community Service Hours must be filled out for EACH site the student performs community service. (See attached).
- ❖ When complete, student will submit this application to the Guidance Counselor, who, in agreement with the Principal, will approve or deny the application.
- ❖ Once approved, student will receive a Record of Community Service Hours form on which he/she will keep a log of hours worked as well as supervisor signatures. When service hours are completed at a site, student will complete a Community Service Hours Evaluation form and give this form as well as the Records of Community Service Hours form to the Guidance Counselor.
- ❖ The Guidance Counselor will notify the registrar to add community service hours to the student's transcript and the Guidance Counselor will add the community service hours on the student's Bright Futures profile

WHAT QUALIFIES AS COMMUNITY SERVICE AT VCS

- Must volunteer at non-profit or government entities.
- Must be supervised by a non-profit organization's employee who is not related to the student
- Volunteering in any capacity during church services or as church outreach
- Mission work or camp, summer Bible school within Sarasota County
- Participating with team, club, group or band in a community service project or outreach event for which attendance is not mandatory (scouts, 4H, etc.)
- Volunteering at retirement or assisted living facilities conducting enrichment or entertainment activities
- Coaching, scorekeeping, refereeing etc. at VCS after school hours or for a non-profit team outside the school system (Little League, Crew, Redskins)
- Tutoring/mentoring elementary, middle, or high school students before or after your own school hours.

EXPERIENCES WHICH ARE UNACCEPTABLE AS COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Cannot report more than 8 hours of community service within a 24 hour period
- Student may not help at parent's/other family member place of employment without pay
- Volunteering at a non-profit agency in place of a paid staff member
- Mission work or camp, summer Bible school, or church outreach outside of Sarasota County
- School sponsored sports that lead to earning a letter
- Participation required to be a high school team, club, group, or band member including but not limited to team manager, hydration support, etc.
- Rehearsals or practices during the school day as a part of a team, club, group or band including but not limited to plays, chorus, etc.
- Playing as a member on a sports team at a local county park or community sports team
- Supporting political campaigns
- Meetings for clubs, scouts, 4H, organizations, etc.
- Serving as a teacher's aide or assistant during your own school hours.

Application for Approval of Community Service Hours

As of June 1, 2017, in order to receive approval of community service hours, students must **identify** a social or civic issue; **develop a plan** for his or her personal involvement and receive approval from the Guidance Counselor or the Principal **before** he/she starts their community service.

NOTE: Any community service completed before June 1, 2017 is exempt from this requirement.

Please complete the following and return to the Guidance Counselor

1. For whom will you do community service hours? (Must be a non-profit organization)

2. What social or civic issue to you plan to address? (ex. Feeding the homeless)

3. What is your plan for helping to address the social or civic issue mentioned above?

4. Your supervisor will have to sign for your hours worked each day, immediately following completion. It is unfair to your supervisor to expect him/her to remember the hours you worked if you try to obtain a signature after the event or activity.

5. **DO NOT START YOUR COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS UNTIL YOU HAVE RECEIVED APPROVAL FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OR THE PRINCIPAL.** You will be notified of your approval via email.

I have read and understand the VCS High School Community Service procedures and regulations to earn community service hours and agree to comply.

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Student Applicant Name (please print) Student Applicant Signature

Date

I have read and understand the VCS High School Community Service procedures and regulations and give permission for my child to complete community service volunteer hours at the organization(s)/agency(ies) for the community Service Activity listed above.

Parent/Guardian Name (please print) Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student Applicant email (please print)

Parent/Guardian email (please print)

Date

I approve this application for volunteering at organization(s)/agency (ies) listed above.

Counselor or Principal Print

Counselor or Principal Signature

Date

Venice Christian School
1200 Center Rd.
Venice, FL 34292
(941) 496-4411

Record of Community Service Hours

Name of Volunteer: _____ Grade: _____

Date of Service	Hours (to the ¼ hour)	Activity	Supervisor's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date

Venice Christian School
1200 Center Rd.
Venice, FL 34292
(941) 496-4411

Community Service Hours Evaluation Form

Student Name

Grade

Date



At which organization(s) did you serve your community service hours? _____

How do the volunteer hours you spent relate to the career you plan to pursue? _____

How has your experience affected your plans to volunteer in the future? _____

Describe your experience and the value of your volunteer time in its shaping of your Christian life.

(continue on the back)