

Portage Central High School's Community Service Award



Requirements for the award are listed below for your convenience:

Two different levels of the award are available:

1. **Blue Community Service Award**

Presented at the Senior Awards Ceremony to seniors who have accumulated a minimum of 200 hours of community service at any time during their high school career, but no later than March of their graduating year.

2. **Gold Community Service Award**

In an effort to encourage students to complete volunteer hours on a regular basis, an additional award can be earned. This award will be presented to any student who, by the spring of each year, has completed a minimum of 50 hours of service in that school year.

Requirements to earn the awards:

- Completion of a minimum of 200 hours of community service by the end of March of their graduating year (for the blue award), or 50 hours of community service in the current year (for the gold award).
- Only activities affiliated with the school, or a community service organization or **nonprofit** groups will be approved.
- Hours completed during the summer will be accepted for the following school year, as long as those hours are submitted on the required form no later than the end of the second week of the school year.
- In order to be considered, hours must be recorded on a Portage Central High School Volunteer Service Form designed solely for this purpose. These forms are located in the main office, counseling office, and Mr. Brown's room #1133.
- A separate form must be completed for each activity, but ongoing activities only require one form, **but the back of the form must be used to keep a log of the dates and times of volunteering.**
- Forms should be turned in to Mr. Brown no later than 2 weeks after the completion of the activity in order to be eligible.
- **The deadline for turning in hours to be considered for the award will be published in the Mustang Minutes, and will be included in the daily announcements.**

- Hours from Rotary Club, National Honor Society and CAS **can** be counted towards the required number of hours if they meet the above requirements, but a PCHS Volunteer Service Form must be filled out and turned in separately from any forms required by the above-mentioned organizations.

Completing the forms:

- All blanks on the form should be filled in completely.
- An adult in charge of the activity and who is **not** a relative must sign the form.
- **STUDENTS** (not parents) are **required to** complete these forms.
- **Forged or falsified forms will result in an automatic disqualification for the award that year.**

What is NOT eligible as community service?

- Any activity that is a requirement for a class, or is completed during school hours.
- Any activity for which you are paid.
- Hours spent traveling, sleeping or not directly participating in a service project.
- Any activity that is **not** affiliated with a school or community service organization or nonprofit group.
- Any activity that is a requirement or expectation for participants in an extracurricular program. Ex. Attending rehearsals for a play
Fundraising for your team

What is appropriate community service?

- Activities that offer the opportunity to improve the condition of members of our school, community, country or the world.
- Activities that are designed to help people who are less fortunate.

Examples of accepted community service

- Habitat for humanity
- Volunteering at a nursing home, the library, PCC, or SPCA
- Special Olympics
- Gardening club, or Moose project at school
- Mission trips (counting only the time of actual service)
- Disaster relief efforts
- Youth group activities such as shoveling snow or raking leaves for the elderly
- Questions? Call 323-5220

For volunteer ideas, check out the opportunities posted on Mrs. Laurencig's google site. In addition, you may also go to the VolunTEENS website at www.volunteerkalamazoo.org and see what they have to offer for the school year or the summer.