

Community Service - Information & Resources

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT GUIDELINE

As a graduation requirement, each student must complete **25 hours of community service**. These hours may be attained through service to a variety of non-profit groups, community organizations and/or school activities. Community service is voluntary time (without compensation) spent on selfless acts which benefit the school community and/or the wider community. Community service can be fulfilled in the service of a school, community, or religious affiliation. Students who complete 200 hours or more of community service during their high school years, including the summer in which students are transitioning from 8th to 9th grade, will be designated with a Distinction for Community Service upon graduation.

Please note: the following activities would not be accepted toward the Distinction for Community Service honor:

- Community service for school activities that are self-serving to the student or organization; or
- Court mandated community service

The community service form will be available in the school counseling office, the front office, and classlink. The completed form must then be signed by an appropriate official of the sponsoring group or activity, who must in no way be related to the student.

The 25 hours of community service may be accrued any time after graduation from eighth grade. Community service hours must be completed by May 15th of the senior year to meet this graduation requirement.

Students transferring to Coginchaug will have the amount of community service hours prorated. As an example, a senior transfer would only have to accrue 15 hours of volunteer time, instead of 25.

Students may be exempted from this requirement only at the discretion of the school principal or his/her designee.

Lists of participating non-profit organizations can be found both on the school counseling website and in the school counseling office. Students can also access the following website at [United Way Volunteering](#) for a listing of additional volunteer opportunities through the United Way.

Resources/Directions to Upload Signed Hours:

- [Direction Sheet](#)
- [Community Service Verification Form](#)
- [Video Directions](#) for Verifying & Submitting Community Service Hours to CRHS

List of Possible Resources but not limited to:

Websites

Volunteer Opportunities [Volunteer Match](#)

ConneCT Kids <https://www.ct.gov/kids/cwp/view.asp?a=2574&q=328118>

DoSomething.org <https://www.dosomething.org/us>

Volunteer Match <https://www.volunteermatch.org/search?l=CT>

Local Organizations to Explore

- [Durham Fair](#)
- [Middlesex Hospital](#)
- [Gaylord Hospital](#)
- [Boys and Girls Club of Meriden](#)
- [American Red Cross \(CT Chapter\)](#)
- [Beth-El Center](#)
- [CT Audubon Society](#)
- [Coastal Fairfield County Habitat for Humanity ReStore](#)
- [Connecticut Humane Society](#)
- [Connecticut Best Buddies](#)
- [Connecticut Sierra Club](#)

- [Durham Public Library](#)
- [Levi E. Coe Library \(Middlefield\)](#)
- [Meigs Point Hammonasset](#)
- [American Red Cross](#)
- [Manes and Motions Therapy \(Middletown\)](#)
- [Soul Friends Animal Therapy \(Wallingford\)](#)

Community Service Project Ideas

- [Salvation Army Clothing Drive](#): A community clothing drive could help you gather donations for the Salvation Army. Check here for information on how to schedule a free pickup.
- [Ideas for 4-H and Youth](#): If your youth group or 4-H club would like some ideas for ways to serve your community, these suggestions are sure to spark your interest.
- [Service Project Ideas](#): These ideas are creative and will help improve the health of your community.
- [Katie's Krops](#): Start a garden to help feed the needy with Katie's Krops and you'll get growing tips, funding to help get your garden started, and the ability to apply for scholarships.
- [Soles4Souls](#): The gift of shoes can change the lives of people all over the world.
- [Projects for Kids](#): The projects suggested here are great for both kids and teens.
- [Care Packages for Troops](#): It's amazing how seemingly small items like toothpaste can bring a smile to a soldier's face. Read about Operation Shoebox to learn how to create and donate care packages for the troops.
- [Hannah's Socks Sock Drives](#): Socks play a huge role in the health of the homeless and others during tough times, Hannah's Socks is a great place to donate your socks.
- [Improving the Environment](#): There are many ways students can have a positive impact on the environment right in their own backyard.
- [MLK Day of Service](#): Here are some great project ideas that you can do on the annual MLK Day of Service or every day of the year.
- [Fitness for Good](#): This page outlines how you can walk, run, or ride your bike in order to raise awareness for a cause.
- [Hats for the Homeless](#): Hats can help save the life of a homeless person. Check here to see how your group can donate.
- [Service Project Ideas](#): There are countless ways you can make a difference in others' lives. Here are several more suggestions for serving your community.
- [Water Conservation Activities](#): Learn here how to educate others on the importance of water safety and how to improve the quality of water in your area.
- [Teens for Jeans](#): Teenagers can greatly affect the lives of the homeless by donating their jeans to this cause.
- [Organize a Book Drive](#): Collect books to help kids improve their reading skills.
- [School Garden](#): Creating a garden at your school is a great way to encourage community improvement and to teach gardening skills.
- [Projects to Serve](#): Here are even more ways that you can serve the community in a fun way. Either on a special day of service or a free weekend, you can put these into action.
- [Warm-Up America](#): This organization accepts knitted items that go to those who are in need of warmth and protection from the elements.
- [Hygiene Kits](#): These kits will be sent to people in America and around the world who have been affected by poverty or natural disasters. World Vision is well-known for its work in this area.

****Morning Announcements often provide information on various volunteer opportunities. Make sure to listen/read the announcements for the latest opportunities, upcoming events and updates.**