

Berkshire Volunteer Service Project

A requirement for graduation from Berkshire Local Schools for students to complete in grades 9-12

Objective

As citizenship is one of the Five C's on the Berkshire Local Schools Graduate Profile for 21st Century Learning (Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, and Citizenship), student service hours are an important part of becoming a responsible, civic minded individual. The goal of this graduation requirement is that taking meaningful action in one's community will have a measurable impact and positive effect on those served as well as the one serving. The more valuable and necessary a volunteer sees their service, the greater the chance the volunteer will be committed to service in the future. **This project is a requirement for graduation from Berkshire Local Schools.**

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic and limited opportunities to volunteer during 2020 and, to a lesser extent, in 2021, hours required for each class are tiered, but the project is required for ALL STUDENTS grades 9-12

- **Class of 2022: 10 hours of documented service are required**
- **Class of 2023: 20 hours of documented service are required**
- **Class of 2024: 30 hours of documented service are required**
- **Class of 2025 & beyond: 40 hours of documented service are required**

Coordinator for the Berkshire Service Project is Meghan Riley-Farrow

meghan.riley-farrow@berkshireschools.org

440-834-3380 extension 3311

RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONS

All of the following are organizations that students are guaranteed to receive approval for.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Relay for Life
- Latchkey
- Coats for Kids
- Toys for Tots
- Habitat for Humanity (students have had a wonderful experience here in the past)
- Salvation Army
- Geauga County Department of Aging
- American Cancer Society
- Geauga Park District
- Geauga Humane Society/Rescue Village
- Therapeutic Riding Center
- S.T.A.R.S.
- Public Libraries
- Meals on Wheels
- Geauga Historical Society
- Food Bank/Pantry
- Homeless shelters
- Fire Departments
- United Way
- Kiwanis
- Special Olympics

Work that does not qualify includes:

- x Anything for compensation or free labor to a business or acquaintance who profits from your labor
- x Auburn ambassador or promotional events
- x Anything that occurs during school hours (Unless you have regular late arrival or early release through the office)
- x Required service for any other club, team, organization or result of the penal system
- x Things you should be doing already- helping your grandmother or other family members
- x Things that involve a family member as direct supervisor
- x Religious specific work- not including charity done through a church (The best way to explain this is through an example: A food drive that benefits the community through the church DOES count, but running the speakers for a church service or being an altar boy/girl DOES NOT count)
- x Summer sports volunteering is tricky, as it means participating in something you will directly benefit from. Very few team related opportunities will be permitted, as most do not reach the goal for this project. It will be important to receive approval before assuming this type of work will count. (For example: Parking cars at Fair for your team or running a youth camp from which your team benefits will not count)

No more than half of the required service hours a student completes may have connection to the school in any way (i.e. taking stats for a team, running clocks, painting murals for rooms, or any other activity related to the school or its extra-curriculars). This is to encourage students to serve the community at-large beyond the school.

If you are unsure whether your service idea will be accepted, please come talk to Mrs. Riley-Farrow in the Media Center or email at meghan.riley-farrow@berkshireschools.org

****The Senior Service/Shadow Coordinator and Administration has final say in whether an activity is approved to meet the criteria of this project.****

HOW TO SUBMIT SERVICE HOURS FOR CREDIT:

- Complete service hours/a service project and submit the following Service Evaluation to Mrs. Riley-Farrow **VIA EMAIL or IN PERSON**. (meghan.riley-farrow@berkshireschools.org). **Emails should be professional in nature, sent from the student's Berkshire email account with a clearly stated name and grade.**
- You may scan and attach the completed service evaluation form and email it to collect hours toward your goal throughout the school year in grades 9-12.
- Please expect a confirmation that the Service Evaluation was received and can be opened (as an attachment) within **24 hours of receipt** and then **up to 5 days for approval or denial** of the proposed service.
- Digital copies of the Service Evaluation are available on the Berkshire Service Website
- Students should keep track of their completed hours, but if there are any questions about hours earned come see Mrs. Riley-Farrow in the Media Center or email.