

Service-Learning Frequently Asked Questions

HOURS

- 1. How many hours are required to earn the Service-Learning Diploma?**
If you are graduating in 2012, you are required to complete 175 hours.
If you are graduating in 2013, you are required to complete 225 hours.
If you graduate in 2014 or later, you are required to complete 250.
Consult the Service-Learning Handbook for more details.
- 2. How many hours are required to earn the Service-Learning Exemplary Award?**
If you are graduating in 2012, you are required to complete 75 hours.
If you graduate in 2013 or beyond, you are required to complete 100 hours.
Consult the Service-Learning Handbook for more details.
- 3. If a student earns enough hours to receive the Service-Learning Diploma, will the Service-Learning Exemplary Award be given as well?** No, students may only receive one of the recognitions, either the Exemplary Award or the Diploma.
- 4. Are students expected to keep a record of their Service-Learning hours?** Yes, it is your responsibility to maintain records of your service hours as well as get verification from the agency where you served. Be sure to maintain a hardcopy of all forms and logs for your personal records. Volunteer hours completed prior to the beginning of the 2010 – 2011 school year will not count towards the Exemplary Award or the Diploma.
- 5. Do hours from the summer count towards the Exemplary Award or the Diploma?** Students may begin documenting hours beginning the first day of school of the 9th grade and may continue their work during the following summers.
- 6. Do my service hours have to be from the senior year?** No. Service-Learning hours will be credited from all high school years of serving your school and community. It is recommended that students be committed to service every year of their high school experience.
- 7. Why should no more than ¼ of my hours be “low quality”?** High quality Service-Learning is intended to address both the academic goals of students and teachers as

well as to provide meaningful service to the community. The “low quality” activities do not adequately address these goals.

- 8. What happens if a student completes more than the required number of Service-Learning hours?** This demonstrates a student’s commitment to helping others. However, there is no additional recognition by the school district. Completing additional service hours may increase a student’s competitiveness for scholarships and other awards, like the Prudential National Spirit of Community Award.
- 9. What happens if a student completes less than the required service hours?** You will not receive the Exemplary Award or the Service-Learning Diploma if the hours are not completed for the recognition.
- 10. Do service hours for National Honor Society and senior projects also count?** All service hours that meet the criteria specified in the Service-Learning Handbook will count regardless if they occur through a club, a class or a community organization. Consult the Service-Learning Handbook for the complete list of requirements. www.gcsnc.com/servicelearning
- 11. Does being a sports team manager earn service hours?** No. This is an assigned role and responsibility as part of the team.
- 12. Is a student allowed to count service hours earned in a class or as part of a school club?** Yes, teachers will be creating Service-Learning units and opportunities for their students. Hours served in this capacity will count towards the Exemplary Award and Diploma. Service hours can count regardless if they take place in conjunction with a class, through a school club or in partnerships with community organizations. If you have specific questions, then please consult the Counseling Department.
- 13. How can I use hours of service from the 2010-2011 school year?** Follow the complete process by filling out all proper documentation from the agency/organization with whom you worked. Include total hours and signatures from someone from the agency/organization that can verify your hours of service. If your hours were completed through a class or club, then you must have your teacher verify your hours on the student log.

PROCESS

- 1. How do I submit the Service-Learning Approval Forms?** The Service-Learning Approval Form can be found at <http://www.gcsnc.com/servicelearning>. Once

completed and all signatures are obtained, then the form should be given to your school counselor who will forward it to the Character Development office.

2. **Do I have to fill out the Service-Learning Approval Forms before I begin the service and what happens if I have already done the service?** It is recommended that you complete the Service-Learning Approval Form and follow the procedures outlined in the Service-Learning Handbook. Volunteer hours completed prior to the beginning of the 2010 – 2011 school year will not count towards the award or the diploma.
3. **Do I fill out the Service-Learning Approval Form twice if I want to serve at more than one agency?** Yes, you can work with as many Service-Learning Providers as you can manage. You will need to submit a separate Service-Learning Approval Form for each service provider with which you work. You will also use separate Student Logs and Reflection forms for each service provider.
4. **How do I prove that I completed service hours?** You will maintain a log of the hours you earned. The agency where you served will verify your completed service hours.
5. **What is Noble Hour?** This is the online, web-based program for service documentation which will track hours and manage documents.
6. **Do I have to wait for approval before I start my Service-Learning experience?** No, it is encouraged that students begin serving in their community or school as soon as possible. Once we receive your form we will notify you of its approval status for credit towards the Award and Diploma Program. If you would like the service to count towards the Service-Learning Award and Diploma Program, review the criteria in the Service-Learning Handbook or contact the Character Development office for additional questions.

AWARDS & DIPLOMA

1. **Does the Service-Learning Diploma help students get accepted into colleges and universities?** Many colleges may consider Service-Learning experiences as a plus in accepting new students. However, being positively engaged in service to your school or community is most beneficial when applying for scholarships.
2. **How do I actually get the award?** The award will be given to you on Awards Day at your school in your senior year of high school after the service and hours have been verified.

3. **How should students who are already juniors and seniors divide up their time to earn the Service-Learning Diploma?** Students who are currently juniors and seniors will be accumulating hours dating back to the beginning of the program. The beginning was the first day of the 2010 – 2011 school year. It is recommended that students be proactive in their pursuit of the award or diploma. Plan your time wisely to meet the required deadlines.
4. **Does court ordered community service hours count toward of the Service-Learning exemplary Award or Diploma?** No, court appointed community service hours do not count. Hours above the required court judgment may be counted if they meet the specified criteria listed in the Service-Learning Handbook.
5. **Why would a student need a Service-Learning Award or Diploma?** This special recognition demonstrates that a student cares about the community and others. This is recognition of a student’s willingness to go above the expectation of helping others.
6. **Does this recognition go on my high school transcript?** No. This is a Guilford County Schools local recognition. It does not go on your transcript.

OTHER QUESTIONS

1. **Does the Service-Learning experience have to last a year?** No. However; we do want your service to be meaningful with intensity and duration. Students benefit most from Service-Learning that extends over at least a month.
2. **How can I get involved with my community on a leadership level that is appropriate for my age?** Become active as an ambassador at your school. Register with the Volunteer Center of Greensboro and become active. Get involved with community or faith-based agencies and organizations that provide youth with multiple opportunities to serve others. If you have a unique passion, start a program in your church, school, or community.
3. **What does Service-Learning guarantee you for the future?** Research shows that individuals who begin serving others at an early age are more likely to be better citizens and become involved in positive action in their community as adults.
4. **Why is Service-Learning important?** Guilford County Schools (GCS) wanted to find better ways of educating students by connecting academic work with real life experiences. Service-Learning provides an excellent opportunity for this connection while making a difference in the lives of others. Service-Learning also helps to build positive character traits like kindness, responsibility, and courage.