

MERIT Minutes

"Maximizing Education to Realize Intellectual Transformation"

The Benefits of Community Service

Why should you do it? How does it help prepare students for the future?

Participation in community service is an integral part of the MERIT program for many reasons. While the goal for every student is that they will perform at least 20 hours per school year, we hope that students will take advantage of as many opportunities as possible. Active engagement in volunteerism is a great way for students to set themselves apart from others, and pays dividends now and in the future. Major benefits of participation include:

1. **Knowledge and Skill Development** - every time you volunteer, you become aware of local issues and you learn skills that can include organizational methods, computing, communication, time management, leadership abilities, and much more. For example, volunteering at Second Harvest spreads awareness of hunger in Thomas County and guides students to work together to efficiently pack food boxes for distribution. Helping at the Feline Sanctuary helps students develop communication skills as well as experience in handling furry friends.
2. **Building your College, Scholarship, and Job Resumes** - nearly every application you will fill out includes a section for volunteerism, and consistent commitment to volunteerism is a great way to showcase your interests and to communicate to a college or organization that you care about others and are socially responsible. A 2018 survey of college admissions officers from around the country found that a clear majority agreed that student community service is an important factor in college admissions. *Moreover, they especially value a community service record that includes student reflections about their service experiences.*
3. **Academic success and good personal health** - according to numerous studies, students who engage in community service are more likely to do well in school, possibly due to the benefits and learning potential of volunteer work. Additionally, studies have demonstrated that student volunteerism yields physical and mental health benefits. Plus, it is a great way to make friends and have fun while helping others!

Visit the TCCHS website for current volunteer opportunities!

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

Stop by the TCCHS MERIT Office in E-3 to get your questions answered, or email TCCHS MERIT Coordinator Erin White at ewhite@tcjackets.net, or contact your Guidance Counselor.



Upcoming:

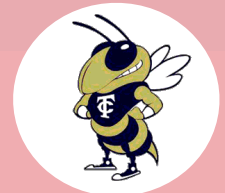
Mon., Jan. 6 -
Teacher
Workday

Mon., Jan. 20 -
MLK Jr. Holiday

Sat., Feb. 8 -
ACT at TCCHS

Fri., March 13 -
Teacher
Workday

Sat., March 14 -
SAT at THS and
Brookwood



TIP: Be sure to document your service hours right away!