

FAQs for Service Learning and Community Service

How many service hours are required to graduate?

- SL hours are not currently required to graduate. However, to receive **MERIT** credit, students must complete a total of 80 community service hours with 20 of those being SL.

Do Service Learning hours count as a part of the total hours for Community Service Medals?

- Yes! The total hours credited includes those earned through service learning and those earned through community service. Both types of activities are valuable to engage in.

When can students begin earning service hours? Can students earn hours over the summer?

- Students may begin earning SL hours upon graduation from the 8th grade.
- Students may earn up to 25 hours per summer and can earn up to 8 hours per day.

How do students choose Service Learning and Community Service opportunities?

- Current SL opportunities are posted on the TCCHS website under "[Current Service Opportunities](#)". Students should also check the current list of community service opportunities located at the Hands On Thomas County (HOTC) web site at: <https://www.handsonthomascounty.org/>.
- Students can actually register for projects on line, either as an individual or as a club or group. Several organized CS and SL events are programmed and scheduled throughout the year.

Can I find my own Service Learning project and receive credit for it?

- *Absolutely!!!* Students are encouraged to discover a specific need in the local community, one they have a specific passion about, and one which they can receive personal knowledge (learning) through their participation.
- The SL Coordinator is there to help you with this process and perhaps help form a team to work together in meeting community needs.
- The time spent coordinating, organizing and implementing such a project are all eligible for accumulating hours.

How are service hours documented?

- Students receive SL and CS hours for participating in activities that align with the guidelines outlined at this web site.
- Students should bring a copy of the [Service Documentation Form](#) (and the [Daily Log](#), if applicable) to the site of service, fill it out completely, and have the activity supervisor sign it. The forms should then be scanned and submitted using the [Link to Submit Service Hours](#).
- This Google form will automatically create a spreadsheet with each student's total hours, which will be reviewed by the Service Learning Coordinator and/or the MERIT Coordinator.

When should students submit service hours?

- Students should submit their hours within 10 days after the end of the grading period. Failure to do so could result in your hours not being credited.
- Seniors are to have all their hours submitted by the last Thursday in March to be considered for Senior Honors and the MERIT diploma seal.

How do students check their number of SL hours?

- Students are encouraged to keep a record of hours submitted. Total hours are tabulated on a spreadsheet and, once reviewed for approval, will be made available in the Guidance Office by the Service Learning Coordinator.
- Alternatively, students can contact the SL Coordinator or MERIT Coordinator via email to check hours.

Will my service hours count if I transferred from another city/state school?

- Yes. Transferred hours will be accepted once they are reviewed and approved by the SL Coordinator.