

Service Learning

Service Learning is a graduation requirement for all Lake Orion High School students. This program is the integration of education, service and citizenship into the curriculum. Service learning teaches students how to interact in real life settings using the skills and knowledge learned in the classroom. Providing service to others facilitates the transition from the dependency of childhood to the status of independent, caring adult. Our goal is to help our students to become people who find solutions to problems rather than people who wait for others to respond. **Additional information is available in the Career Resource Center.**

In Order to Walk at Graduation: All Service Hours, along with Verification – Reflection sheet for each site, must be submitted to the Career Resource Center Coordinator **no later than the last school day of January of your senior year!**

In Order to Receive a Diploma: All Service hours along with Verification – Reflection sheet for each site must be turned in to the Career Resource Center Coordinator **no later than the last school day of June of your senior year!**

Do's and Don'ts of Service Learning

- **Do not** work for a business to earn Service Learning hours.
- **Do not** 'volunteer' for family members for hours. You should help family members at all times!
- **Students may** assist senior citizens, disabled individuals, or special needs persons, other than relatives.
- **Student's** volunteer hours **MUST** benefit the community, **not a business!**
- **Students may** volunteer at their church groups or non profit clubs and organizations.
- **Do** make sure all sites are Non-Profit Organizations or Not for Profit events.
- **Non-Profit does not mean 'not getting paid'**. Non-Profit relates to the organization or event, i.e. Cancer Walk, United Way, Red Cross, etc. Working at a business and not getting paid is not acceptable Service Learning.
- **Do not** submit hours you may have done for another organization's requirement (Court Mandated Hours, NHS, Boy Scouts Eagle Badge, Church Confirmation, etc.) These hours will not count.
- **Don't** stop volunteering just because you have met the requirement. Your total number of hours will be part of your permanent record.
- Students, who volunteer during the summer following their 8th grade, may apply the hours toward the high school graduation requirement.
- You are not limited in the number of hours per site; you must, however, volunteer for at least 3-5 different sites.
- Incomplete Service Learning Verification sheets will not be accepted.
- You must submit completed hours within 60 days following completion. Summer hours must be turned in by September 30th.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Students **MUST** choose one of the following **two** options:

Option 1. Basic Requirement

- Complete 40 service hours at approved locations or activities. (3-5 different sites required)
- Evaluation of ***each*** volunteer site visited (found on Verification-Reflection form).
- Hours **MUST** be submitted no more than 60 days following the completion of the activity. Hours completed over the summer **MUST** be submitted no later than September 30th.

Service Learning Verification-Reflection Sheet Guidelines:

The purpose of the Verification-Reflective sheet is twofold.

- It must be signed by a member of the organization that you volunteered, to verify your participation.
- It is to give you the opportunity to reflect on what you learned from your Service Learning experience.

All questions must be answered and signed by both the organization member and the student.

Ways to Earn Service Learning Hours:

- **Regularly Scheduled Times:** Student commits to volunteer a specified number of service hours over a predetermined period of time. For example, every Tuesday from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- **Special Events:** Student makes commitment to volunteer with an organization holding a one or two-day event to benefit the community, such as a fair for kids, a walk for charity or a blood drive.
- **Student-Developed Service Projects:** A student-generated idea to help a specific organization or group of people. Each project must have the approval of the Career Center Coordinator prior to implementation.
- **Classroom-Based Service Projects:** A service project linked to the curriculum of a class and completed during class time. Ideas are available from the District Service Learning Coordinator or through individual teacher class projects.

Prorating of Service Hours:

Students transferring to Lake Orion High School will have a prorated Service Learning requirement. Students must complete 10 hours for each year or partial year that they attend Lake Orion High School.

Earning Credit - Optional

Once a student has completed the required 40 hours of service, they may choose to continue to increase their hours to a total of 90 hours to receive a ½ elective credit, or a total of 180 hours to receive one elective credit, by fulfilling the following requirements:

Earn .5 Elective Credit

- 90 service hours (All 90 hours must be completed within *one year* from the date of the first service hour).
- Completed Verification-Reflection Sheet submitted for all 90 hours.
- Request to receive credit must be discussed with and approved by Career Resource Center Coordinator prior to starting the additional hours.
- Submit a one page written speech about the Service Learning experience. You may be requested to meet with the members of the LOHS Service Learning Board if additional information is needed.

Earn additional .5 Elective Credit

Once .5 elective credits have been earned, students may apply to earn one additional .5 credit.

- Students will follow the same procedures as listed above.

Students may earn a maximum of 1 elective credit throughout their years at Lake Orion High School.

Option 2. Research Paper

In lieu of completing 40 service hours, a student may elect to complete a research paper. If a student elects to do the research paper, specific guidelines must be met and submitted prior to the beginning of their senior year.

Requirements:

- Topic:** Student must choose a topic relating to Volunteerism and submit to the LOHS Service Learning Board for approval.
- Length:** All research papers must contain 10 pages of content (no more than 11 full pages).
- Due Dates:** All items must be turned in to the Career Center Coordinator for verification on the due date. If a due date is missed; the student will stop their research for that term and begin a new research project again at the start of the next term. This option is NOT available during a student's senior year.