United ISD Community Service Guidelines

What is Community Service? What is not?

Community service is a great opportunity to volunteer service to an organization that benefits the community and fosters civic and social responsibility. It is in this spirit that United ISD offers the Community Service program.

Volunteers select the service they wish to participate in. The main service requirements are that the volunteer is not paid for the service and that the service efforts are not court-ordered.   Also, monetary donations or other in-kind contributions do not count towards Community Service hours. Fundraising does not count. Volunteer hours count as long as they are active volunteer hours directly engaged with the community while providing a service.

Since United ISD is a public school system, therefore approved volunteer organizations are non-profits, not faith-based, not partisan (not politically connected), and focus on providing a service to others in the greater community.

Students earning up to **75 hours of community service,** at the high school level, shall earn a cord for graduation. These are cumulative hours beginning the freshman year of the student's high school career .

Operating Principles

Eligible	Not Eligible
● Non-Profit Organizations/Activities ● Civic Organizations/Activities	● Faith-based Organizations/Activities (some are) ● Partisan Organizations/Activities (no political connections) ● Fundraising ● Meetings

Community Service Guidelines

At School:
- If you are a member of a school-based organization that requires community service as part of its mission (e.g., Student Council/Interact, Key Club, etc.), performing community service activities for a third-party organization counts
    - Time for regular scheduled or recurring meetings does not count (meetings are an internal organization function)
    - Leadership and board meetings for clubs do not count
    - If you are performing (not planning) a service project during your meeting time, that counts
    - Only hands-on/direct volunteer service in the community may count
    - Fundraising activities do not count (see fundraising section below)
- Student Leadership (Student Government) service projects during non-class time counts
    - Regular group meeting time does not count
- Performing with the school's cheer/pep/dance/band/choir/theater for senior citizens and/or disadvantaged groups counts
    - Regular performances and rehearsals do not count
    - Any performance required as part of a class does not count
    - Any performance where admission is charged does not count
- Tutoring another student during non-class time counts provided it is done as part of a sanctioned group (Peer Tutoring, DreamCatchers, etc.) and the volunteer is **not** receiving a grade or extra class credit
    - Helping your friend study for a test does not count
    - Tutoring a sibling or relative does not count
- Helping a teacher (even if the teacher is related to a student) set up their classroom for the year during non-school time counts
    - Helping the teacher during class does not count
    - Being a teacher assistant for a class does count as long as you are **not** receiving course credit and receive advanced approval from the Student Activity Campus Coordinator
- If volunteer hours performed for Living Skills class/FLS/SLS/Cherish Center Classes and adhere to these guidelines, they may count

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For Sports:
- Refereeing or coaching, and training/setup, announcing, timekeeping, working concessions as a sports volunteer for a non-profit or school counts
  - Practicing, playing, and fundraising for a sport does <u>not</u> count
  - Any activities required for players (such as Varsity players helping at JV games) do <u>not</u> count
- Helping a coach (even if the coach is related to student) set up for the season during non-school time counts as long as the activity is not required
  - Helping coach, set-up, etc. for a for-profit organization (e.g., club sports) does <u>not</u> count

For Performing:
- Performing at a charity event or for a disadvantaged group (disabled, senior citizens home) counts
  - Practicing and rehearsals for that specific performance do <u>not</u> count
  - Performing at your school does <u>not</u> count
  - Performances, where admission is charged, do <u>not</u> count
- Helping paint or build sets, sew costumes, etc. for a school play counts only for time **not** required for a class
  - Performing in the play does <u>not</u> count
  - Theater crew hours are limited to 25 hours per production
  - Ushering for a production counts but only for the duration of the actual performance that day
- Performing/marching at an optional community event (e.g., Veteran's Parade, July 4th parade, Memorial Day, etc.) counts
  - School parades (such as Homecoming) do <u>not</u> count
  - Practicing/rehearsing for that performance does <u>not</u> count
  - Performing at a parade (e.g., WBCA) that is required by a class does <u>not</u> count

In the Community:
- Volunteering at any non-profit charitable organization's (of which you are not a member) event counts (Examples: Habitat for Humanity, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Goodwill Industries, Special Olympics, JDRF Walk, Relay for Life, Breast Cancer Awareness, etc.)
  - Preparing and delivering food or other necessities to people in need through a non-profit organization count
  - Volunteering at a profit-based business does <u>not</u> count (includes internships and job shadowing)
- Volunteering to help set up, organize, hand out pamphlets, hand out water, etc. for non-profit organization's event counts
- Participating in a fundraising walk or run even if it is for a non-profit (5K, Relay for Life, JDRF, or for-profit organization do <u>not</u> count)
  - Training for these types of events does <u>not</u> count
- Service projects benefiting another non-profit organization (for whom you are not a member) performed as part of Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Youth Groups, etc. count
  - Internal projects, fundraising, and meetings for organizations of which you are a member do <u>not</u> count
- Volunteering at either the school library or city library counts
- Volunteering at a hospital or at a non-profit animal shelter/fostering service counts
  - Working at a doctor or veterinarian's office does <u>not</u> count
  - At most, only 2 hrs/day fostering an animal will be accepted
- Summer camps (daily and overnight) run by non-profit organizations count
  - Only the direct contact hour/hours on task while volunteering count
  - Sleeping hours, personal time, and travel time do <u>not</u> count
  - Volunteering at for-profit summer camps require pre-approval from the Campus Activity Coordinator
- Volunteering for non-partisan activities counts
  - Helping at voter registration (must be non-partisan)
  - Non-partisan communications (mailings, phone banks, etc.) count
  - Helping a candidate or the candidate's campaign organization does <u>not</u> count

Fundraising:
- Fundraising does <u>not</u> count
  - Fundraising for a non-profit organization for which you are a member does <u>not</u> count (Boy Scout popcorn sales, Girl Scout cookies, etc.)
  - Independently developing a product or service for a non-profit organization that eventually is used to fundraise for that non-profit organization does <u>not</u> count (e.g., time spent baking, writing a book, lemonade stand, etc.)

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○ Online fundraising (e.g., watching videos to earn points) does <u>not</u> count

<u>Places of Worship</u> (volunteer activities cannot be faith-based.):
- Any activity within a worship service does <u>not</u> count
    ○ Singing/playing an instrument or participating in the service (or anything inside of the place of worship) does <u>not</u> count
    ○ Preaching does <u>not</u> count
- Mission trips where non-religious activities are the main component count
    ○ Mission trips whose main focus is to preach do <u>not</u> count
    ○ Sleeping, eating, worshiping, socializing, and travel time do <u>not</u> count.
- Community service projects as part of a youth group benefiting a third-party non-profit organization count
- Vacation bible school and religious summer camps count, as long as there is no proselytizing/preaching
    ○ Volunteering at a religious school (e.g., Sunday school) program where doctrine is taught does <u>not</u> count

Miscellaneous Activities that do <u>not</u> count:
- Team-building activities
- Helping anyone (a neighbor, family or friend) with a chore or activity does <u>not</u> count
- Fundraising for any group where the student is a member (Baseball player fundraising for the baseball team, fundraising to cover student's costs for a mission trip, fundraising for scouting activities does <u>not</u> count)
- Any activity where the student is paid
- Any activity required for a grade in the class or for which the student receives course credit

Miscellaneous Activities that do count:
Donations to Non-Profits DO COUNT :

Value:
$0 - $5   = 1 HOURS
<$5 -$10   = 3 HOURS
<$10 -$20 = 5 HOURS
<$20   = 7 HOURS

Students may only donate a total of 30 hours each school year.

NOTE: If a student is considering volunteering in an activity that is not addressed in these guidelines, the student needs to obtain prior approval from the Campus Student Activity Coordinator BEFORE volunteering.