

Service Hour Instructions

"For just as a body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." - James 3:26

When you were baptized you became a disciple of Jesus Christ. The grace that you will receive next year in the Sacrament of Confirmation will make it possible for you to live as a Catholic Christian witness. Being a Catholic Christian witness is an indispensable part of being a disciple of Christ.

One way that we are called by God to be Catholic Christian witnesses is to serve others. Just as Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles at the Last Supper, we must be servants to our neighbor. That is why the Service Project is one of the requirements that you must fulfill to prepare for Confirmation. *Acting* as a disciple of Christ is one of the best preparations for *being* a disciple of Christ.

As part of preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, you must complete 20 hours of volunteer service. The 20 hours can be completed during 7th and 8th grade.

Guidelines for Service Hours

You **MAY**:

- Do volunteer service for the Church – either here at St. Katharine Drexel, or at another Catholic parish.
- Do volunteer service for a **non-profit, pro-life organization** such as Central PA Food Bank, New Hope Ministries, Interfaith Shelter, Mission Central, or St. Francis Soup Kitchen.
- Volunteer at a local nursing home or hospital.
- Volunteer in the community at a park or at an animal shelter or library.
- Volunteer at events held to raise money for charitable, pro-life organizations or causes.
- Volunteer at a school if there are volunteer opportunities available. (Volunteer hours completed at school must be done during lunch or after school).
- Serve here by altar serving or ushering or singing in the choir. Students may count up to five hours total of liturgical service.
- Serve up to five hours by practicing one of the Spiritual Works of Mercy. Time spent in prayer at Eucharistic Adoration or prayer outside of an abortion clinic may be counted. (Hours logged as Spiritual Works of Mercy cannot be re-recorded on the Spiritual Exercise/Devotion Log.) * A parent contact can be substituted for the contact for Spiritual Works of Mercy only.
- Attend the March for Life in Washington, DC in January to pray for a change in our country's laws regarding the murder of the unborn. Up to five hours of the March for Life may be counted on your Service Hour Log.
- Volunteer with a **non-profit** school/sports booster club or band boosters.
- If you work on service projects with your teacher in Religious Education class or Confirmation Preparation class you may count up to three hours total of in-class service.

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- Babysitting here at church or for another not for profit organization can be counted for up to three Service Hours.
- Vacation Bible School can count for a maximum of 10 service hours. Please contact Mary Ann Schleihauf at maryann@skdparish.com to volunteer.

You may not count:

- Service that you do with the girl scouts or boy scouts **unless you have gotten permission from the Director of Religious Education.**
- Work done at a retail store or any business that runs for profit (such as a supermarket or car repair garage) toward your twenty hours, even if you worked without pay.
- Babysitting for free may not be counted toward your twenty hours *unless* you are doing this for an unrelated person who could not otherwise afford child care or for the church or for a not for profit organization. Such babysitting must be approved by the DRE before the Service Time Log is turned in.
- **Helping relatives, neighbors, or friends for free with activities such as moving, shoveling snow, raking leaves, mowing lawns, housecleaning, etc. may not be counted toward your twenty hours. (Unless it is for someone who is ill, housebound, or in the hospital. Please obtain approval from the DRE for such service hours before turning them in.)**
- Taking care of a neighbor's property or pets while they are on vacation **may not** be counted as service. However, doing this for someone who is ill or in the hospital **may** be counted. **Please obtain approval for such service before turning in your service log.**

A good rule of thumb: If you could be paid for doing a certain activity, take the money and not attempt to use it toward service hours. Doing work for free when one could be paid is not service in the fullest sense – it's a favor. There is great merit in doing such favors for others, but for this project, you are to serve in areas where help is needed and payment cannot be made.

If you have any questions about whether an activity may be counted toward your twenty hours, please email the CRE at rootscott@skdparish.com We will be very happy to discuss any possibilities for service that you are considering for this requirement.

All service hours are to be recorded on the Time Log. This log is located on the Confirmation page of the parish website.

All service hours are due by May 1, 2019

All hours completed during your 7th Grade year may be counted.