

Guideline for Service Projects Confirmation I Candidates

“My dear friends, let us love one another, since love is from God and everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God...Anyone who says ‘I love God’ and hates his brother, is a liar, since whoever does not love the brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. Indeed this is the commandment we have received from him, that whoever loves God, must also love his brother.” 1 John 4:7, 20-21

In preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, Confirmation I candidates must perform **8 hours of service**. Service must be seen as a way of life, not “something to just get over and be done with.” Jesus taught us that if we love God, we must also love each other, and express this love through service that involves one of the **Works of Mercy**, either **Corporal** (feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, and shelter the homeless), or **Spiritual** (instruct the ignorant, pray for the living and the dead, assist in parish choir, music programs, and liturgical programs).

After completion of your Service Projects, you will be required to complete a **Confirmation Service Reflection Paper** based on the projects you complete. The reflection should be attached to the Service Hour Verification Form(s).

Students are encouraged to contact any of the agencies that are provided by the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry (see Volunteer Opportunities Sheet), or select a project of their own. **Candidates may choose a different project other than what has been provided by the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, however, you must first get approval from the Director of Religious Education before volunteering to assist.**

Some areas you might consider are:

- ❖ Ask your pastor for the name and address of a parishioner who may be experiencing some difficulty. Call, write, visit, and offer your assistance to the person or family.
- ❖ Find out what your parish societies are doing (i.e. St. Vincent de Paul, Italian Catholic Federation, Knights of Columbus, etc.) and volunteer to assist in one of their projects.
- ❖ Help at a food distribution center or bring food to the elderly, collect food and clothing for the poor, etc.
- ❖ Join a parish committee (i.e. choice, lector, usher, or assist your pastor in the maintenance of the church).
- ❖ Volunteer to assist with weekly religion classes.
- ❖ Volunteer at a hospital or nursing home.
- ❖ Assist in meal programs for the poor and elderly.
- ❖ Assist with educational or sports programs for people with special needs.

*Areas that **will not be** approved include the following:*

- ❖ Assisting, coaching, score keeping, etc. at school or league sporting events that do not directly help persons with special needs.
- ❖ Envelope stuffing, mailing, set-up, clean-up, serving dinners, booth staffing, or other school-sponsored events not directly associated with an organization that provides services to those in need.
- ❖ Cheerleading, dancing, drama performances, etc. for any school/studio sponsored even or where your performance is mandatory.
- ❖ Activities coordinated in association with school student body councils, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.
- ❖ Altar Serving
- ❖ At no time will a student be allowed to submit service hours where they have received some form of gratuity.
- ❖ No double counting of service activities.

Please note: while students are required to perform service for other requirements (graduation, clubs, parish/school festivals, etc.), these hours will not count towards Confirmation Service Hours.

As in any case, circumstances of situations will be evaluated on an individual basis.

Please contact the Director of Religious Education to approve your individual volunteer service hour projects (for those not provided by the Office of Religious Education and Youth Ministry).

“Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothes me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me...Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.”

Matthew 25:34-40