



Freshman Service Requirement Purpose:

As a Catholic School in the Holy Cross Tradition, St. Edward High School requires all students to participate in our Community Service Program. Rooted in the Gospel call to “love your neighbor” and our Holy Cross mission to “hope for a world where justice and love prevail” our service program is an integral part of the St. Edward Community’s mission and each of our missions in life to strive to live in the fullness of the image and likeness of God.

First Semester Requirement:

- Students will complete a service pre-assessment activity in religion class.
- Students will complete a **minimum of three service visits during the first semester.**
- Students will complete a guided reflection for each visit that will be turned in and graded as part of their religion class.
- Service must take students beyond the bounds of helping family and friends.
- Service that is engaged in should be substantive and address real needs guided by the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Charisms of the Congregation of Holy Cross.
- Service visits and reflections must be completed.

Service Visits:

Service visits should be planned out ahead of time and be intentional. They should last a *minimum* of one hour; keep in mind that longer periods of time provide you the opportunity to engage in relationship building. This will also afford you a better opportunity to observe what is going on at your service site, what larger issues are involved, and what impact your service has. There will be a great number of service visits that will be provided through St. Edward High School that students may participate in to complete the service requirement. These opportunities will be publicized in religion classes, through the Campus Ministry Office, and on daily announcements. Some examples of existing service activities at St. Edward are the monthly community meal, the food drive, Christmas giving drive, tutoring, volunteering at the SEHS blood drive, and visiting local nursing homes. Students are encouraged to engage in service visits outside of those offered by St. Edward High School, *but they need to double check with their religion teacher before to make sure the visit will be acceptable.* In general, the service visits must take you beyond the bounds of simply helping family or friends and should be guided by the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Charisms of the Congregation of Holy Cross to address a real need. ***Simply volunteering of your time does not mean that the activity was service.***

What is and isn't service:

Good examples:

- Helping serve people at the SEHS community meal or at a soup kitchen
- Volunteer helping with activities at a local nursing home
- Helping with a tutoring program
- Working with Youth Challenge
- Being a teacher's assistant for PSR

Not so good examples:

- Mowing a neighbor's lawn
- Service to family members
- Visiting with your grandparent
- Helping a friend with his homework
- Serving mass or participating in a liturgical ministry
- Walking a neighbor's dog

Second Semester Service Requirement:

- Students will turn in for approval a proposal for their community service for the second semester.
- During the second semester students will complete **a minimum of five visits at a service agency** (all five visits must come from the same service agency).
- Students will track their visits by completing guided journal assignments for each visit.
- After the completion of the visits and journaling, students will complete a more comprehensive reflection that ties their service together with the Mission of St. Edward High School, the Corporal Works of Mercy, and the Charisms of the Congregation of Holy Cross.
- The results of the comprehensive reflection will be shared with the class through a presentation at the end of the second semester.

****Please note: *Service will not count if it is done during the summer prior to the first day of class at St. Edward High School.* If you have any questions or concerns, please call or e-mail Mr. Rick Kubrak, Director of Service & Outreach 216-221-3776 x 410 rkubrak@sehs.net.****