



ST. EDWARD HIGH SCHOOL

SPONSORED BY THE BROTHERS OF HOLY CROSS

Sophomore Service Requirement:

As a Catholic School in the Holy Cross Tradition, St. Edward High School requires all students to participate in our Service Learning 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 Requirements:

- Students will take part in the Sophomore Service Retreat and reflect on their experience during class time.
- Students will reflect on what it means to serve others using the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Charisms of the Congregation of Holy Cross as their guide.
- Students will interview someone who regularly volunteers their time for service.
- Students will complete a research paper on a local service organization or charity non-profit and will give presentations on their research.

Second Semester Service Requirement:

- Students will submit a proposal for the location of their community service to their second semester Theology teacher.
- During the second semester students will complete a **minimum of six visits** at an approved local service organization or charity non-profit (at least 4 of the 6 service visits need to be at the same organization).
- 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.

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.

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

Grading: Sophomores must satisfactorily complete all the requirements for each semester in order to receive a passing grade.