



# F.A.Q. regarding SSC's Service Program

## 1. What is the Saint Stanislaus Service Program?

Our ultimate goal for this program is for each student to work in direct contact with those in need, thereby cultivating a lifelong habit of service in everyone in the SSC community. Each grade level is responsible for a different number of hours of service to others, both directly and indirectly involved with the needy. This means that students will be spending their free time in the community, seeking out opportunities to volunteer and taking the initiative to help others.

## 2. Why do students have to do this if it does not directly count for a grade?

As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops explains: "The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the teachings of Jesus and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise. They are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs." This is about who you, and we as a school community, are becoming as men and women who are called to care for those less fortunate than we. It is part of becoming a man of character and a man of Christ.

## 3. May I count service hours that I earned over the summer?

We want to recognize your service accomplished during your summer break, but also enable you to remember the importance of serving others throughout the year. Therefore, up to half of your total required service hours may be accumulated as early as the summer before the current school year.

## 4. May I count service I have done for other organizations (Key Club, NHS/NJHS, Student Council, Boy Scouts, etc.)?

No. Hours for SSC's Service Program are above and beyond other required hours. Students are taught that "double-dipping" is unethical.

## 5. Can I do all of my hours in the first semester?

Yes, you may. While our hope is that you will not see this as "a box to be checked" and gotten out of the way, we understand that circumstances may dictate that you need to accomplish your hours early in the year. Remember, however, that the purpose of this program is for all of us to become regular servants to others in our community, not just one month per year.

## 6. What is the difference between “direct” and “indirect” types of service?

There are two classifications of service hours. Because the main goals of the Service Program center on the realization of what it means to give of one’s self to others and to grow emotionally from this giving, the type of service that has been most rewarding for students involves direct interaction with those in need. Direct hours are when there is person-to-person helping contact. Indirect hours are defined as support work. Common means of service categorized as Indirect include clerical/custodial work, fundraisers, walk-a-thons, school/parish/ethnic festivals or meals, altar serving, etc. Certain amounts of total hours served may be earned as indirect hours, but all hours may be direct.

## 7. Can I earn service hours through personal hardships?

It depends. If a family friend, for example, is suffering from a serious illness, assisting them may count as service hours, but the student must get pre-approval from the Service Program Coordinator before the service begins. Failure to get pre-approval may result in these particular service hours being nullified. Personal hardships that relate to family or neighbors generally are not accepted, the rationale being that helping family and neighbor is a given.

## 8. Do civic events like parades and holiday observances or working on political campaigns qualify?

No, because this is considered your civic responsibility. Christian service has its roots in the command of the Gospel to be of service to the needy, poor and disadvantaged in a direct, personal helping way.

## 9. When do/can I complete these Christian service hours?

Hours may be accumulated as early as the summer before the current school year. Proper documentation is required. Hours must be completed after school, on weekends, holidays or during the summer. Transportation to and from a service site is the responsibility of the student and/or parent and does not count toward the number of hours.

## 10. Where do I go to complete service hours?

Service hours are to be completed at a non-profit organization/agency. Private residences or businesses do not qualify. If the service opportunity you are interested in is not for a non-profit group, it must be pre-approved by the Service Program Coordinator. Refer to the placements listed on the Direct and Indirect Categories list or the Agencies List of service opportunities. Students may confer with the Service Program Coordinator to get approval for other service opportunities of which they are aware. Service opportunities may be found on the SHOUT

Facebook page when posted, on the SSC website under Campus Ministry, and on the SSC Facebook page when appropriate.

## 11. How do I document my service hours?

Forms are available from Mr. Roberts or from your religion teacher, as well as the Google Classroom set up for Service Program. Forms must be submitted by December 2nd, 2016 (for hours required in semester one), and May 5th (for hours required by the end of the school year). If service is ongoing over a period of time, forms should be submitted every three months. Service reported after three months may not be accepted. It is assumed that for over-night, multiple day activities, sleep, personal time, rest time, recreational activities/sightseeing/playing games, and eating are not forms of service. It is safe to assume that a maximum amount of hours per day of active service would be seven.

Travel time to service sites does not count toward the required hours, nor does time eating.

## 12. Where do I turn in the documentation of my Service Form?

The good news is that students do not have to turn in *paper* copies of their Service Forms anymore. Students must still take a paper copy of the Service Form to their service site and have it filled out properly, but after this process they may upload the form as a PDF/JPEG/Photo to the Google Classroom set up for the Service Program or email it to [troberts@ststan.com](mailto:troberts@ststan.com). Students may also turn in the paper copy to Mr. Roberts or to religion teachers.

## 13. What are the consequences of not doing my hours?

Students are encouraged to think in terms of service hours as an opportunity, not something that requires a consequence in order for it to be carried to fruition. However, if altruistic purposes don't motivate you, the knowledge that you may not take your religion exam and will receive an "Incomplete" on your Report Card/transcript will hopefully be enough.

## 14. What is the reflection portion of the requirement and when is that completed?

During or prior to each semester exam (at your teacher's discretion), you will complete a theologically-based reflection essay on your experiences. This will be counted as part of your final semester exam.