

## Christian Community Service Guiding Ideas

Christian Community Service activities

- Promote Catholic faith teachings and gospel values;
- Are designed to benefit the community;
- Support a non-profit agency;
- Promote tutoring, mentoring or coaching;
- Foster stewardship of the environment and global world;
- Involve an association that seeks to make a positive contribution in the community

### Insurance

Students are protected by the Board's liability insurance while they perform their 40 hours of volunteer community service. Community sponsors are also protected by the Board's liability insurance for claims that arise out of students' volunteer activities.

Boards expect that all community sponsors will provide students with appropriate instructions and safety precautions, and will train and supervise student volunteers.

The board's insurance does not cover sponsors for lawsuits that arise from their negligence or for student injuries in the workplace.

Students and parents are encouraged to purchase Student Accident Insurance, available through the schools.

## Examples of Eligible Christian Community Service Activities

**Sports/Recreation**—Coaching, organizing tournaments, summer games, track meets, working with a buddy, pool assistant, or Special Olympics

**Youth Program**—Volunteering with youth groups such as Scouts, Guides, Summer playground activities, camps, Leaders-in-Training, Recreation Centre programs

**Religious Activities**—Children's liturgy program, volunteering in catechism classes, special events, clerical work or cleaning in a church

**Community**—Winter carnivals, summer fairs, food drives, supporting community and charitable groups

**Environmental**—Community clean-up, recycling, tree/flower planting, beautification projects

**Seniors**—Volunteering in a seniors residence, serving snacks, helping with activities, reading

**Animals**—Animal care, volunteering at the local zoo, horseback riding programs, pet shelter, humane society

**Arts and Culture**—Volunteering at a gallery, performing arts production or program, community library program, volunteering to play music

**Individuals** — Assisting an individual with shopping, tutoring, shovelling snow, housekeeping, writing letters, reading buddies, chronic care hospital visits, house painting, yard maintenance

**In-School**— (Outside instructional time) breakfast program, tutoring done before or after school or on spare, assisting at parent night or graduation, organizing school events—as approved by the school principal

**Fundraising**—Canvassing, organizing charitable events for the community –walkathons, gala events, sales

If you would like to volunteer in an activity which does not correspond to the Guiding Ideas or is not within these examples, please contact your school principal for clarification and approval before you begin the activity.

Durham  
Catholic  
District School  
Board



*Christian  
Community  
Service  
For Grade 8  
Students  
Entering High  
School*



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*“As members of Catholic faith communities, we are called to serve.”*

In 1999, the Ontario Ministry of Education mandated that every Ontario secondary student must complete 40 hours of community service in order to graduate. This expectation is consistent with our belief that through involvement with their community, students build empathy and social awareness, grow in faith, boost self esteem, and develop civic responsibility.

According to new Ministry of Education direction, effective July 1, 2011, grade eight students will be able to start earning community service hours in the summer before they enter grade nine. This is an exciting opportunity for students to begin building links in their communities!

### **Catholic Graduate Expectations**

Participation in community service should contribute to the experience, skills and awareness that will help each student to become

- A discerning believer, formed in the Catholic Faith Community;
- An effective communicator;
- A reflective, creative and holistic thinker;
- A self-directed, responsible, lifelong learner;
- A collaborative contributor;
- A caring family member and responsible citizen.

### **Student Role**

- Talk to your parent/guardian about Christian Community Service.
- Read the list of eligible and non-eligible activities.
- Select an activity.
- When you complete each activity, have the supervisor sign the Christian Community Service Record to verify the date, number of hours, and the nature of the activity. You can download additional copies of the form at the board website: [www.dcdsb.ca](http://www.dcdsb.ca).
- Keep the documentation in a safe place. In the fall, your high school guidance office will provide instructions for submitting the record of service.
- Your 40 hours of Christian Community Service should be complete by the spring of grade 12. The sooner you begin, the more rewarding the experience will be.

### **Parent/Guardian Role**

- Assist your child in selecting appropriate, safe and eligible community service activities.
- Monitor the completion and hours and safety of your child. Indicate your approval on the student passport.
- Be prepared to communicate with the community sponsor about questions or concerns.

### **Community Sponsor Role**

- Provide an experience in serving the community and gaining new skills.
- Arrange necessary training, equipment and health/safety preparation.
- Ensure that appropriate adult supervision is provided.
- Sign the “Completion of Community Service Form” to verify dates and times served.
- Consider writing a letter of reference.

### **According to the Ministry of Education, an activity is ineligible if it is**

- Required as part of a school course
- Taking place as part of your instructional day
- An activity that replaces a paid worker
- An activity where you would usually be paid (e.g., babysitting)
- A duty performed in the home (e.g., daily chores) or personal recreational activities
- Requiring the knowledge of a provincially regulated tradesperson
- Playing on a sports team
- A Court ordered program involving a community service expectation
- Involving operating a vehicle, power tools or scaffolding
- Administering medication or a medical procedure, or involves handling “designated substances” as classified by the Occupational Health and Safety Act
- Involving banking, securities or other valuables.
- If under 16, a logging environment
- If under 15, a factory environment
- If under 14, any workplace besides health and residential care, unless accompanied by an adult