

# STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Student Community Service Program is an important aspect of the Pennington experience. This is the program that allows and encourages students to be an active part of their community, both at Pennington and in the community at large. Through the Student Community Service Program, students are taught the value of serving their community. Student community service points are not a reward for service, but rather a means for Pennington to encourage such service in each student. Students are welcomed and encouraged to exceed the minimum requirements. As with all aspects of Pennington, the Student Community Service program is focused on the benefit of our students. This is why participation in the community service program is **mandatory** for all Pennington students. Through their service, we hope students will learn the value of their efforts in helping others.

## Community Service Guidelines

Each student will volunteer a minimum number of hours through the course of the school year, depending on grade level. The minimums are:

1 - 3 grade: 10 hours

4 - 5 grade: 15 hours

6 - 8 grade: 20 hours

Non-compliance by the end of May will result in non-participation in ES Field Day/end of year MS picnics and/or return to the base school.

Community service hours may be worked at Pennington, or for other organizations in the community at large. For example, a student may assist a teacher at school, or may volunteer in a school, community, or religious community service program.

Adult family members are responsible for recording all of the student community service hours in the student agenda. Teachers are responsible for checking and initialing the service hour log. Teachers may designate an individual to enter the student hours into the database.

A student must participate in at least **THREE** different service areas. This encourages students to explore a variety of service opportunities.

## Community service is defined as:

- Work not done for pay
- Work that is not typically expected of children as members of their family (example: credit is not granted for cleaning one's room)
- In benefit of someone else, as opposed to the benefit of the student.

Acts of common courtesy and good citizenship at school will not be recognized with community service hours. These types of behavior are expected of all Pennington students.

Community Service Progress Reports will be sent home each quarter. Parents are encouraged to help their children complete minimum requirements as early in the school year as possible.

Students are encouraged to participate in community service projects that coincide with their interests. Potential areas of service include the following suggestions by the Presidential Student Service Award program found at [www.student-service-awards.org](http://www.student-service-awards.org).

- Community Improvement
- Literacy and Education
- Disaster Relief
- Public Safety and Violence Prevention
- Elderly Assistance
- Youth Serving Youth
- Environment
- Health
- Hunger and Homeless

### **Community Service Projects**

Students may submit a school-wide community service project request in writing to the Assistant Principal for approval. Students may submit a grade level / classroom community service project to their classroom teacher for approval.

Animals and Environment

Volunteer at animal shelter/pound

Volunteer in veterinarian's office

Participate in campaign for spaying/neutering pets

Help clean up parks, roadsides (with supervision)

Participate in recycling projects

Participate in clean air/water projects

Participate in Earth Day/Arbor Day activities, plant a tree

Poverty, Hunger, and Homelessness

Make meals/sandwiches for soup kitchens

Collect clothes, coats, blankets for the underprivileged

Participate in canned goods collection drive

Volunteer at soup kitchens (with supervision)

Volunteer at homeless shelter (older children only)

Participate in “Operation Christmas Child” which sends presents to underprivileged children in third world countries, or similar drives

Participate as a family or class in sponsoring a child in a third world country

Health and Well-Being

Volunteer at a dentist’s office

Make cards for children in the hospital

Volunteer at a day-care center

Volunteer at a fire station or police station (older children only)

Intergenerational Projects

Rake leaves/mow grass for an elderly neighbor

Take a meal to shut-in senior citizen

Visit a nursing home, read to or talk with resident(s)

Make decorations for nursing home. Help a senior citizen put up holiday decorations

Do a living history report--interviewing senior citizens and reporting back to class

### **School Service Projects**

Help clean up grounds, halls, playground

Do errands for teachers

Participate in collecting soup labels, box tops, and other fund raisers

Read to or tutor younger children at school

School Donations

Hours may be awarded for donation of items to programs at Pennington or in the community at large.

If a student works on behalf of a donation drive, such as helping to count and deliver donated goods or organizing a neighborhood-wide effort, their actual time worked should be reported.

## **Hours will be awarded according to the following equivalents:**

**Food Drives:** One hour will be awarded for each 4 items donated, with a maximum of one hour awarded per drive. For example: two cans of food equates to one half hour.

**Book Drives:** One hour will be awarded for every 4 books donated, with a maximum of one hour awarded per drive.

**Newspaper Drives:** One hour will be awarded for each paper grocery sack of newspapers with a maximum of two hours awarded per drive.

**Toy Drives:** One half-hour will be awarded for every item donated, with a maximum of one hour per toy drive.

**Clothing Drives:** One hour will be awarded for every two clothing items donated, with a maximum of two hours awarded per drive. A pair of shoes, for example, constitutes one item.

**Monetary Donations:** Monetary donations will not be considered as credit toward community service hours.

**Labels and Box Tops:** One- quarter hour of credit will be awarded for every 10 labels, box tops, or Tyson proofs sent in i.e., 40 proofs required for 1 full hour. These proofs should be sent in a sealed envelope or Ziploc-type bag. **Both the student and teacher names will need to be legibly included either inside the envelope or bag, or written on the outside of the envelope or bag.**

A representative of the School Rewards committee will be responsible for recording the eligible proofs into the school volunteer database and a receipt will be sent home with the student. Parents are to record and initial the donation in the Student Community Service Log located in the student's agenda. Students are encouraged to drop the donations in the collection box located in the office themselves, so as to eliminate as much work for the teachers as possible.