

# *Christian Service Guidelines and Requirements*

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From the 2017 – 18 Student Handbook

## **2.4 Christian Service**

### **2.4.1 Purpose.**

Service is an integral part of the Christian life. The service requirement for students is designed to reflect the teachings of Christ, who came not to be served but to serve. His teachings reveal God's compassion and special concern for those suffering from poverty, persecution, or neglect:

*The King will say to those at his right hand, "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?" And the king will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it to me." Matthew 25:34*

The purpose of the service requirement is to emphasize a Christ-like concern for the poor and suffering. A **service point system** has been devised to promote and encourage service experiences in which students have direct contact with people in need. The Campus Minister will organize student groups to assist service organizations in the Fort Myers area. Parents interested in volunteering are invited to contact the Campus Minister

### **2.4.2 Guidelines**

#### **A. Requirement.**

Freshmen and sophomore students are required to complete a minimum of 20 documented service hours per year. Junior and senior students are required to complete a minimum of 30 documented service hours per year. Service performed after May 18<sup>th</sup> may be counted for the following school year. Junior and Senior students must turn in service points no later than March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Freshmen and Sophomore students need to turn in completed service on or before May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Failure to turn in completed hours on the specified dates will result in disciplinary action, co-curricular activities will be limited and exam passes withheld until completed. Seniors who do not have their completed service hours in by February 2<sup>nd</sup> will be barred from senior privileges and events until completed. Service point due dates are as follows:

- a. Summer Service Hours – August 30<sup>th</sup>
- b. Junior - Senior – February 7<sup>th</sup> (30 hours)
- c. Freshmen - sophomores – May 2<sup>nd</sup> (20 hours)

#### **B. Hours.**

Students will be granted credit for hours according to the length of the service and location completed. The Campus Minister determines which locations are appropriate for service. Service that reflects the traditional Corporal Works of Mercy will be given the greatest weight. The Corporal Works of Mercy include feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, sheltering the homeless, visiting the sick, visiting those in prison, and burying the dead.

#### **C. Approval of Service Sites.**

All service should be completed off of the pre-approved location list or by the Director of Campus Ministry before service is performed to ensure that agreement exists regarding the nature of the service and that the hours will be awarded as Christian Service.

**Lists of pre-approved and service project sites** are available from Theology teachers and the Director of Campus Ministry. Service not listed as pre-approved should not be assumed to fulfill the requirement.

**Pre-approved locations:**

Boys/Girls Club- 239-334-1886  
Builders Care- 239-938-0056  
Catholic Charities - AFCAAM-239-461-0233 (After School Tutoring)  
Catholic Charities - Bonita Springs After School Program-239-390-2928  
Catholic Charities - Casa Maria Soup Kitchen-239-657-6242  
Calusa Nature Center- 239-275-3435  
Children's Home Society- 239-334-0222  
Clare House-After School Tutoring-239-334-2234  
Coalition of Immokalee Workers- 239-657-8311  
ECHO- (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) 239-543-3246  
Habitat for Humanity- 239-652-0434 (Paula) [www.habitat4humanity.org](http://www.habitat4humanity.org)  
Harlem Heights Organization/ St. Columbkille- 239-489-3973 (Miriam Ortiz)  
Harry Chapin Food Bank- 239-334-7007  
Hope Hospice/ Thrift store- 239-652-1114  
Humane Society of Lee Co.- 239-332-0364  
LARC- 239-334-6285 x 229  
Lee Memorial Hospital- 239-334-5388 [www.volunteerlee.org](http://www.volunteerlee.org)  
Lifeline Family Center- 239-242-7238  
Big Brothers/Big Sisters 239-278-0003  
Nursing Homes:  
    Shady Rest- 239-931-8401  
    Cypress Cove- 239-415-5100  
    The Woodlands- 239-574-8789  
    Heartland- 239-275-6067  
    Heritage Park- 239-334-1091  
    Hidden Oaks- 239-939-1393  
Public Library Lee Co.- 239-479-4620  
Quality Life Center- 239-334-2797  
Red Cross- 239-278-3401  
Ronald Mc Donald House- 239-437-0202  
Salvation Army – 239-278-1551  
Senior Friendship Center (The Dream team)- 239-275-1881  
Soup Kitchen/ Meals on Wheels (CCMI)- 239-332-0441  
Special Populations- 239-574-0574 (Laurie)  
Special Equestrians- 239-226-1221  
Thrift Stores: Blessed Pope John XXIII- 239-433-4097  
    Salvation Army- 239-278-1551  
    St. Vincent De Paul Society- 239-274-0660  
    St. Columbkille Thrift- 239-489-4001  
Tops Soccer-CCSA- 239-910-3845  
United Way of Lee County 211- 239-433-3900 x 260  
YMCA- 239-275-9622

Service that is not pre-approved but is performed in public, non-profit endeavors such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, soup kitchens, thrift stores, and other organizations that provide for those in need can be presented for approval.

**D. Projects or Activities that will not receive credit.**

Projects or activities that do not meet the listed criteria, either in whole or in part, should not be assumed to fulfill the school requirement. Examples include:

- Chores done at home, baby-sitting, helping family members, or other examples of duties or responsibilities that would otherwise be performed will not qualify as service.

- Being an “office runner,” attending club meetings, assisting coaches, or providing ordinary assistance to a teacher when asked during the school day are all encouraged but will not be considered a fulfillment of the service requirement.
- Volunteering with “for profit” organizations, companies, or individuals will not qualify even if it is done for no pay.

**E. Approved service to be done on or off campus must take place outside of regular school hours.**

**F. Student Organizations, Clubs, or Athletic Teams** may require members to participate in particular service projects or require students to exceed 20/30 hours as conditions for membership.

**G. BVHS service.** No student may earn more than 10 points from Bishop Verot Catholic High School. At least 10 Freshmen/ Sophomore -20 Junior/ Senior points must be completed at two-point or above service opportunities.

**H. Forms.** Service is to be documented on a form issued to students by their Theology teacher or available from the Campus Ministry Office. The form may also be found on the school website.

**I. Verification.** An adult who coordinated or supervised the service must verify service performed and provide his/her contact information. Signatures from parents, peers, or anyone under the age of 18 are not acceptable forms of verification.

**J. Service Performed During Summer.** Projects completed over the summer must be submitted to the Director of Campus Ministry for approval. Approval forms are available online at the BVHS website. During the summer, students are strongly encouraged to engage in Corporal Works of Mercy by working with the poor, the sick and dying, or persons otherwise in need.

**K. False documentation** of Christian service will be punished as academic dishonesty and a violation of the honor code. Hours falsely documented will be made up in service placements chosen by the administration. In addition, the student will be subject to disciplinary action for honor code violations as outlined in the Handbook.

**L. Students who do not complete 20 or 30 Hours** will be given one Saturday detention for every week (past the due date) their hours are not turned in, students may not be promoted to the next grade, and final exams will be with held. In the case of seniors, students will be barred from senior privileges, events and will not be allowed to graduate. In such cases, a Summer Service Agreement will be required, with approval of sites from the Christian Service Coordinator.