

# Old Town High School

## Service Requirement for an Honors Diploma

### Purpose

The service component of the Honors Diploma is required so that you can identify a need in a community, provide *meaningful* service to address the need, and reflect on the experience. Please keep in mind, “community” does not necessarily mean local to Old Town. “Community need” refers to any place that has a need for service; for example, volunteering at the Old Town Library or collecting school supplies for Nicaraguan children are both “community needs”.

Your service can take one of three forms or any combination of the three. They are:

**Community Service** –volunteering for an existing project/event that is beneficial for the community

**Service Project**-a project/event that is planned, implemented, and evaluated by you as a member of an organization or class

**Service Learning**-a project done in a class that incorporates both the academic goals of the particular class and a service, which addresses a community need and contributes to a solution of a problem

Providing service, while addressing a need in the community, is a very rewarding experience. Service allows you to connect with issues and concerns that interest you in a meaningful way. *YOU* can make a difference.

## **Requirement**

Beginning in the 2007-2008 school year, Honors Diploma recipients must complete a *minimum* of twenty service hours within their four years at Old Town High School.

- To obtain the minimum twenty service hours, you can do a *maximum* of three service projects. It is highly recommended that all of the hours are completed in one project, since you and the recipient of the service will gain a great deal more from the experience. It is also recommended that you not wait until your senior year to get your hours. Things get *very* busy and graduation comes quick.
- To begin the process of selecting your service, you will need to submit a brief description for the service you intend to do to your mentor for approval. If approved, the service hours will count towards the service requirement. If a service is not approved, your mentor will give you feedback as to why and suggest ways that would make it count towards the twenty hour minimum.
- Your hours will need to be documented by you and verified by the community partner, project advisor, teacher, etc. you are working with. A "Service Hours Log" will be provided. At the completion of each service project, a reflection essay will need to be written and given to your mentor. Essay prompts will be provided.

**\*\*\*Students who had completed the previous service-learning requirement and documentation will not be required to meet the revised requirement. (twenty hours of service). However, remember that providing service, while addressing a need in the community, is a very rewarding experience. Service allows you to connect with issues and concerns that interest you in a meaningful way. YOU can make a difference.**

## **Resources**

There are a number of places for you to find service opportunities.

- Checking area non-profit organizations, civic organizations, faith organizations, and student organizations (in and out of school) are all good places to look for service opportunities.
- The Service Learning/Community Coordinator is also a good resource in looking for service opportunities.
- Attached is a listing of activities that will earn service hours and activities that may not be used to earn service hours.

## *How Can I Earn My Service Hours?*

<b>Earns Service Hours</b>		<b>Does Not Earn Service Hours</b>
<b>Religion</b>	Assisting the elderly Food kitchen for homeless/hungry Teaching arts/crafts Promoting literacy Language tutoring Health/sports coaching Building shelters Academic tutoring Community safety Violence prevention Other partnering for community outreach	Teaching about religion Recruitment/membership building Helping with religious services <i>(including babysitting.)</i> Office work/cleaning/grounds keeping
<b>Childcare</b>	Shelter/Free clinic/YMCA Public Education facilities Tutoring or mentoring at public or private school (academic subjects) Pre-approved special projects with free services are offered to a population in need	Baby sitting for family, friends or neighbors For-profit daycare or preschool
<b>School Clubs</b>	Fundraising for charity Meetings specifically preparing for service activities or fundraising Community outreach <i>(i.e. Health Fair)</i>	Activities that benefit only the club Regular club meetings Fundraising for the club treasury, uniforms, fieldtrips etc.
<b>Sports, Performing Arts, and JROTC</b>	Exhibitions for charity <i>(i.e. health fair/Red Ribbon event)</i> Youth clinics <i>(non-profit or free to participants)</i> Free performances for special populations with profits going to a charity <i>(i.e. hospital/shelter)</i> Unpaid coaching/refereeing for non-profit sports organizations/parks Club activity where profits go to shelter/needy family/victims of a natural disaster	Camps or classes that charge tuition For-profit camp or business Activities/performances required for course/school credit Rehearsals Ticket profit goes to club

# Old Town High School Honors Diploma-Service Project Prior Approval Form

*This completed form must be approved and signed by your mentor before you begin your service project.*

Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_ Honors Diploma Mentor: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the type of project  Community Service  
 Service Project  
 Service Learning

Project dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your project in one to three sentences:

List school or community partners who will be involved:

Describe the community need met by the project.

*Submit this form to your Honors Diploma Mentor.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Project approved

\_\_\_\_\_ Project NOT approved

*(If not approved, please give the student feedback as to why it was not approved and suggest ways that would make it count towards the twenty hour minimum requirement.)*

Mentor's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Feedback:

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*Students: Keep a copy of this for yourself, and give the original to the guidance secretary to be filed in your permanent record.*



## Honors Program Service Reflection Essays

All Honors Diploma Program students are required to complete a reflection essay at the end of each service project. Reflection is best accomplished through on-going journal entries that are done throughout the project and are reviewed prior to writing the reflection essay. The reflection essay should be given to your mentor within two weeks of the completion of the service project. The reflection papers must:

- Be word processed, typed or written in ink
- Be at least 1 typed page or approximately 350 words long

Please consider the following questions when you write your essay.

- What community needs or problems did this project meet?
- What did you learn about yourself from participating in this project?
- What would you do differently if you get involved in future service projects?
- What did you learn about the community need or problem from interacting with others during this project?
- How did you make a difference by participating in this project?
- Will you be involved in service projects in the future? Why?