

WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Community service is donating your time, energy, and skills to a specific cause in your area that benefits a larger group of people. Community service is an important and fun part of our High School Exchange USA and Grants Programs. Through community service, you can directly impact your community by investing in something larger than yourself. In addition, your Community Service Projects enable you to immerse yourself in American culture, form meaningful connections with your community members, and make friends, too! Successful completion of your Community Service Projects is required to receive your Certificate of Completion for the High School Exchange USA and Grants Programs.

WHAT IS MEANINGFUL SERVICE?

Your projects should focus on supporting and improving your community, and building relationships with its residents. When choosing a project, think about what interests you and what qualities, abilities and skills you can put to use in your community. Do you like to cook? Inquire with a local soup kitchen about serving a special dish from your home country. Do you like to play soccer? Organize a soccer clinic for local children, or help coach a children's team. Have you ever helped your younger brother or sister with their schoolwork? Ask your teachers if they know of younger students that might need help completing their homework. Do you like animals, or miss your pets at home? Volunteer at an animal shelter and spend time with animals that need a home in the U.S.!

WHAT IS NOT MEANINGFUL SERVICE?

Activities that do not benefit a larger community are not considered to be meaningful service projects and will not be counted towards your total hours. Examples of activities that are *not* community service include: babysitting; doing housework/yard work or shoveling snow for your host family or neighbors; selling food or candy at a sports game; participating in activities such as sports, theatre, or music through your school or community; Only 10 hours total of CIEE host family recruitment or tabling events can be counted toward your hours.

WHERE AND HOW CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

Care Center/Nursing Home
 Animal Shelter/Humane Society
 YMCA/Sports Camps
 Local Chamber of Commerce
 Museums
 Church, Temple or Mosque
 After School Programs
 Local Government Office or Town Hall

Environmental Cleanup Project
 Trail Maintenance/Conservation Corps
 4-H Club or Sierra Club
 Library
 Blood Drives, Food Drives, Clothing Drives
 Community Presentations About Your Country
 "Global Youth Service Day" April 2018

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. **Complete 20 hours of community service during your program year (10 hours per semester).** You must record all volunteer work and submit them to CIEE via SurveyMonkey to show that you have fulfilled your service hours.

Deadlines:

- Submit at least half of your total required hours of service by **January 1st.**
- Submit the remainder of your total required hours of service by **April 30th.**
- August semester students: submit all required hours by **January 1st.**
- January semester students: submit all required hours by **April 30th.**