



STUDENT COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION SHEET

Oxbridge Academy students ARE NOT required to complete Community Service hours in order to graduate.

DEFINITIONS:

Community is defined as:

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common
2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals

Service is the action of helping or doing work for someone.

Community Service is defined as service provided to the community where **no** financial compensation is received.

PURPOSE:

Students have the opportunity to earn scholarship money based on the amount of Community Service hours accumulated during their high school term. While some of these awards could earn a letter, pin, coin or medallion, most have significant monetary value. This is particularly more significant in Florida thanks to recent legislative changes that offer full tuition to students who meet the academic guidelines and community service requirements, as follows:

- ✓ 100 hundred hours to be considered for the Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) award; and
- ✓ 75 hours for the Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS) award.

GUIDELINES:

Students may begin earning Community Service hours from the summer prior to entering 9th grade until the last day of their 12th grade. Students looking to earn Community Service Hours must identify the “cause” to support and feel compelled to fully embody and integrate. The purpose is for students to look beyond themselves and reach out to the betterment of our community. We encourage students to provide services to more than one (1) organization and address more than one (1) cause/social problem. Transferring students from a Florida public or private high school may also transfer their Community Services hours earned if the previous school verifies the hours. Homeschool students will have their hours honored if documentation is provided on the corresponding organization letterhead of the number of hours earned and dates of service completed. Qualifying organizations are inclusive and are not limited to the following types of service:

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| 1. Social | 5. Medical | 9. Political organizations |
| 2. Health & Mental health | 6. Preservation of animal rights | 10. Religious organizations |
| 3. Environment preservation | 7. Educational | |
| 4. Historical site preservation | 8. Sports | |

Therefore, a student may provide services which directly benefit the following: people experiencing poverty, discrimination, abuse, loss (sudden death, pets), poor health and/or physical-mental health limitations, widows, single parents, orphans, the protection of animals and the environment. Students may also participate with organizations that provide leadership, guidance, and activities to younger individuals in our community or abroad. They may also participate in programs that maintain safety or improve the standard of living for residents in our community and/or abroad.

NON-QUALIFYING COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS:

Any form of Community Service earned where the student did not actually accumulate hours of work for services provided (For example: Blood donation, Locks of Love, Food Donation.)

Any service that is obligatory where the student is not compelled to integrate. (For example: Court mandated Community Service.)

THE PROCESS:

Continuously maintain a community service hours log and (as it occurs) submit additional hours to the college counseling office. If a log has not been maintained, students may use the template provided on the Oxbridge website as it follows the recommended format required by the Office of Student Financial Aid Assistance (OSFAA). Large organizations often provide form letters on their company letterhead; these forms are also accepted; however, in order to follow the OSFAA required format, it is recommended the student and a parent/guardian also sign these form letters prior to submitting them to the College Counseling office.

FINAL APPROVAL:

All service hours will be evaluated, verified and determined by the College Counseling office assignee and/or school administrator. To aid with the evaluation, it is recommended that students provide a one-paragraph experience summary evaluating the work performed and their reflection on how it changed, maintained or improved their view prior to and after the experience. If you have questions regarding the applicability of hours, please contact Monica Hammett at monica@oapb.org.