

Community Service Requirements:

1. All students graduating from Tiverton High School are required to complete 75 hours of community service.
2. Students can carry a maximum of 60 hours from 7th and 8th grade community service. A minimum of 15 hours must be earned while in High School.
3. All Community Service activities must comply with the policies of the Tiverton School Department. Credit for all hours must be approved by the Service Learning Coordinator.
4. Community Service hours must be earned through approved activities. It is recommended that students choose one or two of the many local non-profit organizations to complete the bulk of their hours. (Doing one or two hours for many organizations requires more documentation and record keeping on the part of the students.)
5. Pre-approval Forms, Documentation Sheets, and Reflection essays must be completed in order for Community Service Credit to be given. (Copies of all forms are available from the Service Learning Coordinator or at www.tivertonschools.org.)
6. In most cases volunteer work performed for an individual person will not be approved. If a student has a significant interest in assisting an individual person (elderly neighbor, disabled person, etc.) the student is required to complete a Pre-approval form prior to beginning community service activities. Credit will not be given without prior written approval from CS Coordinator. Service must meet an actual community need. Assisting an individual with a project related to that individual's job or recreation will not be considered community service. (For example: Assisting someone in painting their fishing boat will not be counted for community service.)
7. Once service hours are done a formal documentation sheet must be completed and turned in to the Service Learning Coordinator. The documentation sheet includes a space for the student's reflection on their service; this section must be completed in order to receive credit. If an organization has written a letter to document the hours the student must still complete the student portion of the documentation sheet and turn it in for credit.
8. Students must complete at least 50 hours by the start of senior year in order to be eligible for senior lounge.
9. Students are encouraged to find community service activities that are rewarding, enjoyable and personally meaningful; potential career related choices are always encouraged.
10. **Restricted Service Activities:**

Students may not earn Service Learning hours through the following:

- a. Work that is financially reimbursed

- b. Community Service credit will not be given for volunteering for a business. (restaurant, store, etc) In most cases horse barns, dance studios, and day care centers are considered for-profit businesses and will not count. The distinction between a nonprofit and a profit making business will be based on Federal 501(c)3 standards.
 - c. Babysitting will not count for community service.
 - d. Service for a student's family generally will not count. A student may not be supervised or have their hours documented by a member of their family.
11. **Church:** Students may receive volunteer hours for helping at religious institutions as long as those hours do not include proselytizing. For example, a student is eligible for service learning teaching Sunday school, singing in the choir or serving as an altar server. A student may receive service hours for assisting in landscaping or church clean up days. (Double check with your individual religious institution- some are not willing for students to use religious volunteer hours for school credit)
12. **Fundraising activities** for non-profit charities will count as volunteer service hours as long as the activity complies with Tiverton School Department Policy and providing the student is not volunteering for an organization that benefits the student directly (i.e. student council, band fundraisers, individual class fundraisers, etc.) However: community service credit can be given if a student organization hosts a fundraiser for a non-profit organization. For example RI Hope students may hold a candy sale and donate all of the profits to the American Cancer Society, and receive community service credit. Service hours may not be earned based on the amount of funds raised or products sold.
13. **Blood Drives:** A student may receive service credit for donating blood at blood drive. One hour of community service will be granted.
14. **School Based Service Projects** will from time to time allow students to earn service learning hours through donations. (Annual food drive, annual Giving Tree/Toys for Tots) those activities will be open to all students who are interested in participating and will be at the discretion of the Service Learning Coordinator.

(one hour of service= one hour of credit)