VTWL COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINE

Definition

Community Service is unpaid work performed by an individual or group to benefit a local community, its people, or its institutions.

VTWL Board Approved Examples of Community Service

**National Honor Society*
Service must be unpaid, benefit a non-profit organization, and excludes standard extracurriculars. Common activities include: Local community drives, City sponsored events, Animal shelters, Humane Society, Peer tutoring, Mentoring, Senior Centers, etc.

**Scouting* (i.e. Eagle Scout Award, Gold Award Girl Scouts)
Requires planning, organizing, and leading a large-scale community service project which must benefit any school, religious organization, or community organization.

***Church based community service* connects faith with local needs.
Volunteering with internal Church operations would include ushering, being an alter server, serving as a youth leader by teaching Sunday School or Summer Bible School, working with hospitality, etc. External Community Outreach would include food pantries, clothing drives, community dinners, and mission trips (only to the extent of the actual work being done).

**4-H*
Community Service is a core-pillar of 4-H where members pledge their “hands to a larger service”. Youth gain civic and leadership experience through projects like park and fairground clean-ups, planting community gardens, running local food and supply drives. The Junior Leadership Club (age 13 or older) participates in Community Service projects in Fairfield County through an OSU Extension. Raising a market animal through 4-H would NOT count as community service.

**Sporting events*
While playing a sport or setting up for your own team games does NOT count as Community Service, helping set up for other youth games or multi team tournaments does count. Unpaid coaching of youth sports also counts as Community service.

**Miscellaneous*
There are many opportunities to serve your community beyond the above-mentioned examples. Some opportunities include volunteering at a food pantry, serving meals at a soup kitchen, volunteering at a dog shelter, visiting nursing homes, participating in community clean-up projects, volunteering at the library, and helping with community events such as festivals.
The possibilities are endless.