



COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT AT THE FIELDSTON SCHOOL

The philosophy, guidelines and operation of the Community Service Program are clarified in this document.

I. WHY IS WORK A REQUIREMENT FOR GRADUATION?

Community Service has long been a tradition in the Ethical Culture Schools. There is a great deal of educational value in work, especially work which provides service to others and new experiences for the worker. Students often learn to cope with non-academic settings, make discoveries about possible future careers and they enjoy helping others.

II. WHERE DOES A STUDENT WORK?

A. ON CAMPUS (IN-HOUSE OPPORTUNITIES)

- In the library
- In offices
- For academic departments
- As a tutor
- At the Lower School (tutoring, as classrooms aids, in special divisions such as music, art, etc.)

B. OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL

- Hospitals
- Museums
- Neighborhood centers
- Consumer-help agencies
- City agencies
- Tutoring or aiding in schools
- Environmental projects recreational projects
- Papalegal assistants
- Libraries
- Medical offices
- Selected business positions (see section IV)
- And many other organizations

III. HOW DOES A STUDENT FIND A PLACEMENT?

The CSL faculty and staff will place, supervise and validate your Community Service Learning work. Should you have any questions about the Fieldston Community Service requirement, or should any problems arise during your work-service experience, it is our job to help you. You can find us in Room 1115A.

IV. HOW DOES THE SCHOOL DECIDE IF A POSITION IS SUITABLE FOR A PARTICULAR STUDENT?



Decisions are made on an individual basis according to the needs of the community. Each student's interests, past experiences and future aspirations are important considerations. Specific paid service may or may not be acceptable; pay itself is not the issue. The service should provide a transformative and educational experience for the student and should allow him or her to make a meaningful contribution to others in the community. What may be a broadening experience for one student may be an unchallenging repetition of past experiences for another student. Service appropriateness is determined on a case-by-case basis. It is part of the student's responsibility to support the merits of the service.

V. WHAT ARE THE HOUR REQUIREMENTS OF THE WORK PROGRAM?

During the school year 60 hours.

During the summer 120 hours.

VI. WHEN DOES A STUDENT EARN CREDIT?

Most students earn credit between THIRD and FIFTH FORM. Students are strongly encouraged to begin earning community service credit as early as possible. Please submit your service forms in a timely manner. Service forms that are not submitted to the CSL Office within one school calendar year after the service has been completed will not be accepted.

VII. HOW ARE STUDENTS EVALUATED?

Agency supervisors submit reports on student performance. These reports evaluate the quality of the work performed and include comments on the student's judgment, punctuality, cooperation and sense of responsibility.

VIII. WHAT DOES THE STUDENT DO IF HE/SHE FINDS HIS/HER OWN SERVICE PLACEMENT?

Students who wish to earn credit should register their service proposals with the CSL office. Supervisors should be notified that the service would be done for credit. Students must supply the name and address of supervisors who can then be contacted by the school.

IX. A PHILOSOPHY OF ON-GOING SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS

The school encourages students to make on-going contributions to the Fieldston Community and the larger society beyond those required for CSL credit. Advisory groups may organize special projects such as painting, gardening or clean-up jobs. Entire forms may meet for a day or work, picnics and socializing. Students may volunteer time in addition to CSL credit to help in neighborhood centers, to assist handicapped children or older adults, to work in local environmental projects. Because we believe that both the individual and the community are enriched by meaningful work experiences, we encourage everyone at Fieldston to become involved in Community Service Learning. Students who wish to be included in projects or who have ideas for the formation of programs should see us in the CSL Office in Room 115A.