

Christian Community Involvement

*“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.”
(Mother Teresa)*



My Christian Community Involvement:

- † is performed in the spirit of giving
- † is a secondary school graduation requirement
- † is a commitment of a minimum of 40 hours with completion before graduation
- † is completed outside of scheduled class time

The Catholic Graduate is expected to...

- † be a collaborative contributor who develops one's God-given potential and makes a meaningful contribution to society
- † be a caring family member who ministers to ... school, parish and wider community through service
- † be a responsible citizen who contributes to the common good [by making the world a better place through growing awareness of social justice issues and participating in community outreach initiatives] (Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations, Institute for Catholic Education 1998).

The Christian Community Involvement requirement provides an opportunity for students to successfully meet these Catholic Graduate Expectations. While learning the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith throughout the curriculum, students must have opportunities to witness their faith by reaching out to help others through Christian Service.

*“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least of mine, you did for me.”
Matthew 25:40*

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES

Christian Service in our Catholic schools has always been part of the Religious Education Program. Therefore, we encourage our students to complete their hours during the semesters in which they have their Religious Education course.

We recommend that students complete a minimum of 10 hours each year during the semester they are enrolled in Religious Education.

Pre-Approval of Summer Hours

- Grade 8 students are able to start accumulating community involvement hours in the summer after Grade 8 graduation before they enter Grade 9. It is the student's responsibility to obtain pre-approval from his/her grade 8 Teacher, Principal, or Secondary Student Services. Students are asked to bring the completed Tracking Form to Student Services.
- If secondary students would like to complete hours during the summer or during a semester in which he/she does not have a Religion course, it is his/her responsibility to obtain pre-approval from the Principal or Student Services and submit the Tracking Form.

Students will:

- obtain pre-approval of the activity chosen from the Religion Teacher/Principal/Student Services in order to avoid activities deemed ineligible for the Christian Community Involvement requirement.
- select meaningful activities that promote the Christian call to be people of service and complete and track the activities in a spirit of giving to the community, demonstrating responsible and respectful behaviour.
- ensure that the community supervisor confirms the hours completed with a signature and phone number.
- submit the Tracking Form to his/her Religion Teacher or Student Services for monitoring purposes.

Parents will:

- provide assistance to their child in the selection of community involvement activities in order to ensure safety and appropriateness.
- sign the completed activities on the Tracking Form.

Principals/Teachers will:

- provide information to students and parents regarding the policy and procedures of the Christian Community Involvement requirements.
- provide pre-approval of the Tracking Form and activities chosen.
- confirm the completion of the Christian Community Involvement requirement.

Supervisors will:

- provide training, equipment or special preparation that is required for the arranged activity.
- provide a safe environment for the activity.
- provide signatures, contact phone numbers, verify the date(s) and number of hours completed.

Insurance and Protection:

- The Board's liability insurance **will** protect the students and community sponsors for liability suits for damages or injuries to a third party that may arise from students' Christian Community Involvement hours.
- Board liability insurance does **not** cover the Supervisor/Agency for lawsuits that arise from their negligence or for student injuries in the workplace.
- Students are **not** covered by the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board in the event of personal injury. Students and parents are encouraged to purchase Student Accident Insurance, available through the schools in September.
- Supervisors must provide students with safe instructions, safety equipment (if necessary), training and supervision of students.



Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board
Christian Community Involvement Tracking Form

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ School: _____
(Please Print)

Christian Community Involvement is at the heart of Catholic Education. This voluntary service enables students to show solidarity with people who are in need and who require assistance. It also helps to foster in students an understanding of civic responsibility and participation, and enables young people to develop and share their skills and gifts with others, in the wider community. This program in secondary schools satisfies the graduation requirements for the Ontario Secondary School Diploma (**Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12: Policy and Program Requirements, 2011**).

STEP 1:

You MUST get a pre-approval signature BEFORE you volunteer for each activity.

Note: If the work is not pre-approved, there is a chance that the hours may not be accepted.

Organization/Group: _____

Activity: _____

(Print Name)

(Signature)

Note: Above pre-approval signature can be given by: Chaplain, Religion Teachers, Student Services, or Principal.

STEP 2:

Record the information below upon completion of your Christian Community Involvement or at the end of a term to update your records.

Organization/Group: _____

Tasks Completed: _____

Dates Completed: _____ Total Hours Completed: _____

Supervisor (please print)

Supervisor's Signature

Supervisor's Phone: _____ ext. _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

STEP 3:

Submit this completed form to your Religion teacher or Student Services and keep a copy for your records.

Office Use Only:
Date Entered: _____

By: _____

Previous Hours: _____

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- **Must be with a not-for-profit agency or organization**
- **Must take place outside of instructional hours. An activity during lunch or spare periods is permissible.**

Parish Ministries:

- altar servers
- children's liturgy
- leaders of parish youth clubs
- music
- parish functions

Outreach to Seniors: (not-for-profit agencies/charities)

- seniors' residences-helping with activities only
- visiting (reading activities)
- serving snacks

Sports/Recreation(not-for-profit agencies/charities):

- coaching at:
 - partner schools
 - Sault Youth Soccer
 - YMCA
- tournaments
- track meets
- summer games/camps

Environmental Projects:

- community clean-up
- community flower/tree planting
- community garden/recycling

Community: (not-for-profit agencies/charities)

- political election campaigns
- Food Banks/Food Drives
 - eg. St. Vincent De Paul
 - eg. Soup Kitchen
 - eg. Salvation Army
- Lung Association
- Red Cross
- United Way
- Rotary
- Events (walkathons, marathons)

Individual Assistance through a not-for-profit agency or organization:

- Helping someone who needs help with:
- shopping
 - tutoring
 - snow removal
 - hospital visitation
 - reading buddy

Arts/Culture:

- theatre performance
- Art Gallery
- library programs
- museum/heritage sites

LIST OF INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

You cannot accept any form of payment or compensation for completed Christian Community Involvement hours. Please call Student Services for any questions.

The Ministry of Education and Training (Policy/Program Memorandum No. 124A – April 27, 1999) has developed a list of activities that may not be chosen as community involvement activities and that are ineligible activities.

You may not choose an activity as part of your Christian Community Involvement that:

- **the person or organization would normally pay for this service**
- you are helping a relative or friend whom you should be assisting out of normal family and friendship ties and obligations eg. babysitting younger brother, shovelling snow for grandparents.
- consists of duties normally performed in the home (e.g. daily chores)
- consists of personal recreational activities (eg. dance studios, private coaching or assisting with sports camps or clinics that are for profit).
- are requirements for personal gain, such as certification in sporting or technical areas
- is a requirement of a class or course in which you are enrolled (e.g. co-operative education portion of a course, job shadowing, work experience)
- takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is less than sixteen years of age; takes place in a factory, if the student is less than fifteen years of age; takes place in a workplace other than a factory, if the student is less than fourteen years of age and is not accompanied by an adult; involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding; involves administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons; involves handling of "designated substances" under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*; requires the knowledge of a tradesperson whose trade is regulated by the provincial government; involves banking or the handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiques, or other valuables
- involves a court-ordered program (e.g. community-service program for young offenders, probationary program)