

CHRISTIAN/SALESIAN SERVICE PROGRAM GUIDELINES



INTRODUCTION: The Catholic school should be seen as offering the possibility not only of exploring the mystery of faith but also of demonstrating the Gospel in action. Our commitment to service flows directly from our baptismal commitment. Therefore, we should clearly identify our service programs as Christian. This is to be preferred to “community service.” Likewise, the school affiliation of our students should be clear and unambiguous when they are engaged in service activities that serve as part of their program of studies.

Perhaps the key element in creating a culture of service within our school communities is to foster an active sense of the Church as Servant. As the U.S. Bishops put it, ***“The Church is a servant community in which those who hunger are to be filled; the ignorant are to be taught; the homeless to receive shelter; the sick cared for; the distressed consoled; the oppressed set free - all so that men may more fully realize their human potential and more readily enjoy life with God now and eternally.”*** With this mandate in mind, the Salesian/Christian Service program at Judge has been expanded and updated.

REQUIREMENTS: The hours required for each grade level are listed below. The service hours will count as a pass/fail grade. The service reflection paper will count as a Theology grade.

FRESHMEN: TEN HOURS of SERVICE are required. In light of the above directives regarding service to the poor and marginalized, Freshmen must contribute FIVE of their TEN HOURS to an organization that works “hands-on” with the poor. The school will be providing supervision and transportation to and from specified locations where students will come into contact with the least of God’s people (soup kitchens, homeless shelters, nursing homes, etc..) The remaining five hours may include coaching, assisting at a grade school or volunteering at your parish or even extraordinary service to Father Judge High School outside of the scope of a normal school day (helping at the craft fairs, flea markets, Parent Association events, etc..) Please note helping with Admissions events (Open Houses, etc..) will not be considered for service hours.

SOPHOMORES: TWELVE HOURS of SERVICE are required. Tenth grade students must increase their hours from freshmen year by two (for a total of twelve hours). The requirements from above are the same for sophomores with a slight increase in hours: Six of the twelve hours must be done directly for the poor or marginalized under the supervision of the school (through the Office of Salesian Identity & Service). The school will provide opportunities and transportation for those who need help or support serving the poor and marginalized. The other six hours may be done on the parish level, at a boys club, a non-profit or performing extraordinary service to the Judge community (see freshmen requirements for more details).

JUNIOR & SENIOR STUDENTS: FIFTEEN HOURS of SERVICE are required. The eleventh and twelfth graders are asked to PERFORM A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN HOURS of Christian/Salesian Service OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL THROUGH A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION (especially one connected in some way to the Church). They may participate in school-sponsored service trips, (to St. Francis Inn, Camden, etc...), but first priority for these trips is always the underclassmen.

TIPS FOR ALL STUDENTS: All service is unpaid volunteer work. Service should involve personal interaction with others. It is more than just stuffing envelopes or raking leaves. It is reaching out to the poor, lonely and vulnerable in our society. Students are expected to remain faithful to service commitments such as tutoring at a specific elementary school until the end of the semester or coaching a team until the end of the season. Students may volunteer with non-religious organizations (non-profits) but they cannot be political or against church teaching.

ALL SERVICE SITES MUST BE PRE-APPROVED BY YOUR THEOLOGY TEACHER OR THE DIRECTOR OF SALESIAN SERVICE.

** Christian/Salesian Service SUMMER SCHOOL will be held in June for any student who fails service during the assigned semester. The fee is \$50. Attendance is MANDATORY.

Please sign below and return to your theology teacher by the required date.

STUDENT SIGNATURE: _____

PARENT SIGNATURE: _____

** This form is also available on the Father Judge website under SALESIAN IDENTITY

