

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

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NOTRE DAME CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

POLICY ON SERVICE HOURS 2016-2017

The Religious Education Learning Outcomes of the Archdiocese of Vancouver prescribe "service to the community in response to the gospel call" at every grade level. To meet this requirement, Notre Dame Students perform voluntary service as follows:

1. HOURS

All Notre Dame Students are required to do **twenty (20)** hours per academic year.

2. DEADLINE

Ten (10) hours will be due Monday, January 10th, 2017. The other ten (10) hours will be due Tuesday, May 23rd, 2017 (the day after Victoria Day).

3. EVALUATION

The service work will be evaluated by an external moderator and by the student himself or herself. Family members may not serve as external moderators.

4. MARKS

Service hours will constitute 10% of a student's overall mark for the year in Christian Education.

A failure to complete all or part of the service hours may ultimately result in a failure in Christian Education.

5. ACCEPTABLE SERVICE

Service must be performed for a **registered** charitable organization or **non-profit** society. Catholic schools, parishes, and agencies are all acceptable. Similarly, any organization that is registered with Revenue Canada to give tax receipts for donations is acceptable. Finally, any non-profit society registered under the BC Society Act is also acceptable.

Service may not be performed for family members. Work that leads to a direct financial advantage for a private enterprise cannot be counted for service.

Service cannot be done within school hours without the explicit approval of the Christian Education Department Head.

6. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.

Q. I worked for my relative's business, but I did not get paid. Does this count for Service Hours?

A. No. Even though you did not get paid, your work did not help the community as a charitable act. Essentially, you helped the profit margin of a private company.

Q. Can I mow my neighbour's lawn or babysit or move my grandparents' furniture?

A. No. Something like this is difficult to verify. It's a very nice thing to do, but it cannot count for Service Hours.

Q. Can coaching kids' teams count?

A. Yes. Youth leagues are an important part of the community.

Q. The local bank is sponsoring a bike race to raise money for cancer research. Can this count?

A. Yes. Even though a for-profit organization is running the event, the event itself is for a charitable foundation.

Q. Does volunteering for a local MP or MLA count?

A. Yes. Elected officials form an important part of the community.

Q. I worked for a fundraiser to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease, but my mother is the chairperson. Can she sign as the supervisor?

A. Yes. She is signing not as your mother but as the chairperson for the event.

Q. My service can only be done during school hours, but I am helping out a Notre Dame event. Can this count?

A. Yes, but you still have to get explicit approval from the Christian Education Department Head. In other words the Department Head must know about it before hand and give a clear approval both to you and the supervisor.