

Revised Confirmation Stewardship Service Hour Guidelines during COVID. Effective April 1, 2021 until further notice

Important guidelines in order to receive credit for Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours:

- **Service hours must be turned in, within 90 days of completion, in order for you to receive credit for the hours. (Example, if you complete the hours on 6/15, your completed form must be turned in, via email, by 9/15.)**
- You are required to earn 20 Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours based on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Can you earn more? We hope so! But you do not need to hand in more than 20.
- A minimum of 10 of your service hours must be complete and turned in no later than January 15th of your 7th Grade year, but you may turn in as many as you like!
- The last 10 of your service hours must be complete and turned in no later than January 15th of your 8th Grade year.
- You may turn all 20 hours in, as early as you desire.
- You must complete a minimum of 4 different types of service for a minimum of 1 hour per service. There is no maximum hours you can earn*. (**Baking has a maximum of 3 total hours service credit. If you baking is your passion and you are a Chef Extraordinaire, you must come talk to us for prior approval of additional hours. Please note: Boxed and pre-pared cake/brownie/etc. mixes only count for the actual hands on time it took you to mix them. Mixing brownies for 3 minutes and baking for 50 minutes doesn't add up to an hour's time.*)
- As a responsible young person preparing for Confirmation, you must complete your own Service Record Form, and it must be completed in your own handwriting. Parents must not complete their child(ren)'s forms; forms filled out by parents/adults will not be accepted and will be returned.
- ~~The person in charge of the event in which you are serving, must sign your form. Your parent may not sign in this person's place. On the rare occasion that you are unable to obtain a signature of this person, you must contact the PREP office to discuss alternatives.~~
- Your parent must review your completed form and sign off on the bottom of every form you turn in.
- Prior to turning it in, you may fill in as many service records on one form as you would like. A full form is acceptable, as is a form with only one service record listed; your choice.
- **You must make a photocopy of your completed service hour form to keep for your own records.** In the event there is a discrepancy or question about your hours, you can go back to review your form.
- ~~All completed service hour forms must be turned into your teacher*. Your teacher will turn them into the PREP office; please do not turn it into the PREP office directly*. (**Summer PREP students are the only students who should turn their hours into the PREP office directly.*)~~

New:

- Changes to Service Hours due to COVID, social distancing and quarantine have been highlighted in this packet. Please see the following pages for details.
- All completed service hour forms must be emailed to PrepServiceHours@lccAnnandale.org. You may either take photo of the completed form, or scan it. This is the only method you should use to hand in your completed form.
- Don't forget, you can complete all your hours, whenever you want. You should not wait til January of 8th Grade to do them. 😊

(See the next page for the Do's and Do Not's of Stewardship Service Hours)

Do's and Do Not's of Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours

The below will NOT receive credit for Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours:

- **Anything for which you are already counting the service hour credit for another organization such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Junior National Honor Society, etc.. This includes badges and awards; no double dipping – NOW OK during COVID**
- Anything related to sports, dance, cheer, band, choir, or other extracurricular activities not listed, including fundraising, score keeping, or Snack Shack or the like. (Only Special Exception: Coaching a Special Needs child.)
- Anything related to private organizations, clubs or lessons that involve performances such as dance, vocal or musical or theatrical troupes are not permitted. (Special note: While StarMakers may well be a wonderful organization, service hours through any organization are not permitted, including StarMakers.)
- Anything that benefits you or your class (eg. raising money for a class trip or class event)
- Anything for which you are paid (eg. paid babysitting, but babysitting for free is okay, paid to help a neighbor is not okay, but if you do it for free, it is okay)
- **Anything for your family; we are expected to serve our families without credit – NOW OK during COVID**

Approved Confirmation Stewardship Service Opportunities:

We will email you any opportunities that come to our attention, but **you must also seek your own opportunities.**

Church:

- Assist Catechists at PREP and/or Vacation Bible School; care for Catechist's children while class is in session
- Clean the church; help decorate for the holidays [call the rectory: 908-735-7319]
- Assist at parish socials organized to bring parish members together
- Assist at the Parish Festival
- Prepare casseroles for sick parishioners or neighbors
- Serve at Pancake Breakfasts sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
- Altar serving – Sunday Mass, funerals, sacraments, etc.
- Help at Children's Liturgy of the Word during 9AM Sunday Mass [call the rectory: 908-735-7319]
- Become a Pro-Life Volunteer: Annual Life Chain in Flemington (October) Annual National March for Life in Washington, DC (January) or the NJ State March on Trenton (January)
- Pick up sticks in the Mary Garden

Community:

- Volunteer at Senior Citizens Centers and Nursing Homes; sit & talk, make cookies, play an instrument, sing Christmas Carols, arrange a picnic, play games, read to the residents, etc.
- Organize a group of friends to go Christmas caroling at the Hunterdon Developmental Center
- Assist with Meals on Wheels deliveries
- Prepare food baskets, or trays of food, for the needy
- Help at school organized activities (that are not required of you and do not benefit your graduating class, but benefit others) – Christmas Secret Shoppe, Grow a Row, etc.
- Serve the homeless
- Organize a food drive (or mitten, hat, scarf, socks, diapers, baby supplies, or other drive) in your neighborhood and deliver to a local food pantry [Food Pantries: Clinton 730-7320, Flemington 788-5568, Catholic Charities in Phillipsburg 454-7986]
- Organize a Pet Supply drive (food, toys, old towels, etc.) [St. Hubert's Animal Shelter in North Branch 908-526-3330, Hunterdon SPCA in Milford 908-996-2525]
- Organize a baby shower drive/collect items for mothers in need [Life Choices in Phillipsburg: 908-387-0020]
- Visit shut-ins, the elderly, people recovering from illness; help them with yard work (raking leaves, shoveling snow) or household chores (dishes, shopping, cleaning, putting up or taking down Christmas decorations)
- Volunteer at Junior Olympics, Special Olympics, Cancer Society, Animal Shelter, or coach a Special Needs Child, etc.
- Tutor young children, participate in walk-a-thons for charitable purposes.
- Participate in Environmental services, clean-ups, etc.

**Revision for Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours during COVID Social Distancing and
Quarantine Guidelines**
Effective March 1, 2020* until further notice

***The below service which was not allowed previously, is now permitted. You can also still do anything from the above list if social distancing requirements permit and quarantine is lifted (and if your parents allow it).**

The following service is currently allowed (but had not been previously allowed prior to March 1, 2020):

- Anything for which you are already counting the service hour credit for another organization such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Junior National Honor Society, etc.. This includes badges and awards.
- Any large projects or new chores you have done for your immediate or extended family, including babysitting (*if it was for free*). Examples: Painting the house, landscaping the yard, demolition and construction project, mulching, raking, mowing, planting, power-washing, making dinner, helping your Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, cousins, etc.

New Ideas during social distancing:

- Get a partner to team up to do the service hours with!
- Pick up litter in your neighborhood, local park (area of student's choosing) either for several hours 1 day, or 1 hour a day throughout the summer, or each time you take a walk.....etc.
- Provide free virtual homework support/encouragement to K – 3 grade school student (preferably a child known to your family) who many need some support.
- Find a program that is doing something related to the country's current pandemic (mask making, goodie bags for essential workers, thank you notes, etc.) and help out.
- Hunterdon Medical Center – Signs of Support:
Hunterdon Medical Center would like to decorate the windows and halls of the hospital with positive messages to encourage our staff on the front lines. We are asking students to create signs of support and use a blue heart in their design to symbolize the courage and commitment of our Healthcare heroes. Signs can be mailed to:
Kathleen Seelig - Public Relations
Hunterdon Medical Center
2100 Wescott Drive
Flemington, NJ 08822
- Spear-head a "thank you" mission to your school teachers, related service providers, administration, for working so hard to provide you with an education throughout the COVID – 19 pandemic. (Guidance counselor or even administrative assistant might be happy to help you with this).
- If you know an elderly person or lonely person in your neighborhood who could use some cheer, drop them some fresh cut flowers, hand-made pictures, fresh fruits/vegetables, or a letter.
- Create a 'Rock Painting' or 'Shell Painting' program of encouragement/kindness: Find some beautiful rocks or shells. Paint them and leave words or signs of Jesus, God, love, hope, kindness or joy on the porch of friends and family members. Or on a path or trail or the beach that your family likes to frequent.
- Commit to helping your parents with a chore that you typically wouldn't do for the year (taking out the garbage; doing laundry; outdoor chores; babysitting younger siblings; etc.)
- With your parent, run errands or do food shopping for a person who is not able to go out either because he/she has compromised health or for other personal reasons.
- Write a kind note to an elderly person.
- Collect DVD's for RWJ children's hospital.
- Collect and drop off unused toys to the Ronald Mc Donald House. (This is a house where families are allowed to stay if their child is extremely sick and in the hospital for a long time.)
- Shop for and drop off for families in the Ronald Mc Donald House.

- Collect it items for children that are having an extended hospital stay at RWJ or another hospital.
- Give Greeting Cards of all types for parents of sick children in RWJ.
- Take care of someone's pet while they're away.
- One of our families shared the following Acts of Kindness for Kids with me. This is not something we usually allow, but during COVID, we will. If what you choose is very brief, (these are marked with a *) then you must do at least 10 different very brief things to count for 1 hour of service.
 - Hold a door open for a stranger.*
 - Feed the birds.*
 - Tell someone a joke to cheer them up.*
 - Return someone's cart at the store.*
 - Leave happy notes around town.
 - Call your grandparents 5 minutes a week and ask them about their childhood, recipes, how they met, etc.*
 - Compliment a friend or family member.*
 - Let a stranger cut you in line.*
 - Write a thank you note to your mail carrier.*
 - Plant something.
 - Collect all the recycling in your family's car, every time you go somewhere, for a month.
 - Wash someone's car.
 - Bake dessert for a neighbor.
 - Check on an elderly neighbor.
 - Walk a neighbor's dog.
 - Bury a treasure at the playground.
 - Set the table for dinner.*
 - Leave bubbles on someone's doorstep.*
 - Tell someone they are special to you.*
 - Donate outgrown clothes.
 - Buy a coffee for the person behind you.*
 - Talk to someone new at school.*
 - Write chalk messages of love, peace and hope on the sidewalk in front of someone's house.
 - Donate new socks to a homeless shelter.
 - Take treats to the fire station.
 - Read a book to an elderly person or a younger sibling.
 - Say hello to everyone you see.*
 - Tell someone you love them.*
 - Make someone else's bed without telling them.*
 - Do someone else's chores without telling them.*
 - Write a letter to tell your principal how great your teacher is.
 - Say thank you when you see service members, police, firemen, rescue squad members, healthcare workers, and essential workers in any store that has been opened all during COVID.*
 - Fill a kindness jar with candy for another family. (Ring & run and tag them to pass it on to someone else.)
 - Make a busy bag for a family with young children.
 - Thank a sanitation worker.*
 - Give spare change to the food pantry or the poor box.*
 - Clean up your room without being asked.
 - Make muffins for your pharmacist.
 - Buy extra school supplies for a teacher.
 - Teach someone something new.
 - Give someone a hug coupon.
 - Donate coloring books and crayons for a children's hospital.
 - Write a poem for a friend.
 - Ask for donations for others instead of birthday gifts.*
 - Make a candy gram for the police department.
 - Make a homemade gift for someone.
 - Smile at everybody all day long. It's contagious!*