

Seventh Grade Service Hours Requirement

St. Paul 7th grade students are required to complete **ten hours of community service involving at least three distinct service opportunities** prior to promotion to 8th grade. Service to others is an integral part of St. Paul's curriculum and of our Christian faith. We believe that service experiences can accomplish three things:

1. **FORMATION OF ATTITUDE:** prepares students to recognize their commitment to a large community.
2. **CONFIRMATION OF GIFTS:** helps students discover individual talents
3. **HELP THOSE IN NEED:** helps students identify and pursue opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others.

Each 7th grader will be responsible for completing 3 components of Service Hours:

1. **PLAN IT: Complete a paper** that guides students and their parents in identifying your gifts and motivation for serving and matching those gifts with potential service opportunities. **Paper needs to be turned in on Friday, September 17.**
2. **DO IT: Complete the service projects**—making a record in your assignment book about the service project (group/event, date, hours worked, what was done)
3. **EVALUATE IT: Turn in a 1-2 page written report** of their service projects, describing your work and also evaluating what happened (what you learned, what was accomplished, would you serve in that way again, etc.). **This paper is due no later than Tuesday, June 14.**

Answers to commonly asked questions:

Can my work with St. Paul School service projects such as Project Starfish count?

No. These are school-sponsored events, so they do not meet the requirements for additional community service.

What if I do all 10 hours in one service project? Do I have to find 2 more service projects?

Yes. The requirement is for 10 hours of service AND 3 distinct projects. This is to help our students gain a wide base of experience to guide their future volunteer efforts.

Does service to my church such as being an altar server or helping teach Sunday School count as a service project?

Yes. Service to your church community usually does apply. Check with Marie to confirm your particular service, but altar serving and teaching Sunday School would count as one of your service projects.

What if I helped out as a volunteer this summer—like at Vacation Bible School—does that count?

Yes. Write down your hours served and what you did right away so it will be fresh in your mind. Only one of your three projects can come from your summer activities.

What if I did something to earn money and then gave the money to a charity I really care about. Does the time I spent earning the money count as a service project?

No, this is a great way for you to support the work of charities, but it does not count as a service project—the goal is for you to get involved in the work of service.

What if I work as a volunteer to clean-up a park or help at an animal shelter. Does this count for service hours?

Helping clean up a park or a beach does count, because it directly impacts the people who will be using those spaces. Helping at an animal shelter does not directly impact people so it would not count as service hours.

What if I help with a canned-food drive with my Boy Scout Troop? Can I also count these hours as my service hours for 7th grade?

Yes, you can 'double up' your hours and count this service as one of your service projects for 7th grade as long as you take an active role in the project.

I don't have any ideas for service projects. Can you suggest some?

Yes! You may consider some of the following:

- **Homeless Hospitality**—help with homeless families in the school gym during Christmas break; we'll have more information in the weeks prior to Christmas about sign-ups
- **Visit with seniors** at a local nursing home—contact their social events director and see if you (any maybe a friend or two) could visit, play games, play a musical instrument for the residents
- **Helping at Food for Lane County** with packaging food for food boxes—this is a great project to do with a friend or two, since you can visit while you work
- Conduct a **canned-food drive** in your neighborhood—donate the food to our local St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. Paul church
- Assist with **clean-up** at a local park or with SOLV beach clean-up
- Offer to **help a neighbor or family in need**—cook a meal for a shut-in, mow the lawn for an elderly person free of charge, etc.
- Hang out, play with and read to kids from homeless families at the **First Place Family Center**. Call 342-7728 to arrange for times (after school is a time they need 'big kid' friends for the little kids).
- **St Vincent de Paul** has a number of projects where young people can help. Contact Rebecca Larson for more information or to offer your help at 687-5820, ext. 121. You can go with a group of classmates to assist with landscaping or in their mattress recycling facility (you will need your parents to come with you).
- **Help at your local church** with Sunday School or during the Liturgy as an altar server or sacristan.
- **Red Cross of Lane County** has numerous projects throughout the year that you could help with. Please call their volunteer coordinator at 344-5244 to find out about how you can help with various programs such as food programs for kids, meals on wheels and service for military families.
- **The City of Eugene** has a number of offices to help those who want to volunteer, including: **Library (682-8319), Parks (682-4845), Recreation (682-5333) and the Stream Team (682-4850),**

Name: _____

DUE SEPTEMBER 17

7th Grade Service Hours Requirement
Planning Your Projects

*With a parent, read the following passages from Scripture.
Discuss together short answers to the questions:*

1. Matthew 25:31-46

A. List the kinds of service Jesus refers to in this passage. Which of these services are you and your family already accomplishing (think about what happens within your family as well as how you might reach out to others).

B. What is the message of Matthew 25:40 in your own words?

2. James 2:15-17

A. What kinds of needs do you recognize in people around you?

B. Based on James 2:17, how are good works connected to faith?

3. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

A. What kinds of gifts (talents, abilities) are present in members of your family?

B. Who is the source and distributor of all these gifts? Why does He distribute them?

Your Gift Inventory:

With the assistance of a parent(s) or other adult who knows you well, rate yourself in the following areas:

I like being in places with lots of activity and people.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>	I enjoy spending time listening to people and talking with them.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>
I enjoy working with friends on projects where we can talk and visit.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>	I like to spend time with little kids and I seem to get along with them.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>
I don't mind working hard outside doing yard work.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>	I love to try new things and have new responsibilities.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>
I like being in charge—figuring out what has to be done and who can do it.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>	I really enjoy helping people who are going through tough times.	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's not me!</i>	1 2 3 4 5 <i>that's me!</i>

Go back through your answers. Describe 3 or 4 or your strongest gifts/talents. You can add talents or gifts that aren't described in the above inventory. Have a parent confirm and/or suggest other talents.

What are some general kinds of service projects that would best make use of your talents? Have a parent confirm or suggest additional projects that might be good for you to try.

Proposed Service Projects

After completing the above reflections, spend some time in prayer. Then write down 3 or 4 possible service projects that you are seriously considering doing:

Student Signature

Parent Signature