



Service Hours Policy

At Discovery Christian School, community service is an essential part of our mission to develop students who lead with Christlike character, compassion, and integrity. Service helps students look beyond themselves, meet the needs of others, and live out the call that Scripture gives us—to serve, to love, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

Service Hours Requirements:

All high school students at Discovery Christian School are required to complete a minimum of 50 approved service hours prior to graduation. These hours are distributed as follows:

- **Freshman Year:** 10 hours
- **Sophomore Year:** 10 hours
- **Junior Year:** 15 hours
- **Senior Year:** 15 hours

Students who complete 200 or more total service hours during their high school career will receive a Service Award, which includes a special graduation cord at commencement.

Pre-Approval Process:

All service activities must be pre-approved by school administration.

To obtain approval:

1. Submit the Service Hours Pre-Approval Request Form via Google Forms.
2. This form can be found on the Discovery Christian School website under “Campus Life.”
3. Students should wait for a confirmation email from administration before completing the service activity.

Hours completed without pre-approval will not count toward the requirement.

Acceptable and Unacceptable Service Hours:

To ensure that hours truly reflect meaningful community service aligned with the mission of DCS, the following guidelines apply:

Service hours *DO NOT* count if:

- The work is completed for a family member
- The work is done for pay or compensation
- The service takes place during regular school hours
- The hours are not pre-approved

Special service opportunities:

- **Mission Trips:**
Mission trips that are in line with the mission of Discovery Christian School may be awarded up to 25 service hours.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS):**
VBS service hours may be counted based on the total number of hours served per day, pending pre-approval.

Submitting Completed Service Hours:

After completing pre-approved service work:

1. Students must fill out a service hours form (available in the front office or downloadable from the school website).
2. All requested information and required signatures must be complete.
3. Forms must be submitted by the end of each 9-weeks grading period.

Forms submitted after the end of the 9-weeks will not be accepted, and those hours will not count toward the requirement.

Why Community Service Matters:

Service teaches students responsibility, humility, compassion, and a sense of calling. It opens their eyes to the needs of others and strengthens their understanding of what it means to serve like Christ. Community service cultivates leadership, builds character, and encourages students to use their gifts to glorify God.

Biblical Foundation for Service:

The Bible consistently instructs believers to serve others with a joyful and willing heart. Scripture reminds us that:

- We are called to love our neighbors (*Mark 12:31*).
- We are to serve others as Christ served us (*John 13:14–15*).
- Our faith should move us to action (*James 2:17*).
- We are called to go into the world and share the Gospel (*Matthew 28:19–20*).

Christ Himself modeled servant leadership throughout His earthly ministry—healing, feeding, washing feet, comforting, and giving of Himself completely. As followers of Christ, we reflect His heart when we serve our communities, care for the hurting, and participate in missions that further His kingdom.

At Discovery Christian School, we believe that service is not just a requirement—it is a calling. Our prayer is that each student develops a lifelong desire to serve God by serving others.