

## Appendix C: Ministry Service Hours

*“Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me... Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.” -Matthew 25:34-40*

Ministry service hours are tools that are employed to strengthen students’ sense of stewardship and civic engagement, as well as assist them in meeting educational, social, and spiritual goals. Ministry hours encourage the development of our students’ social conscience by placing them in direct contact with various populations of people in need. By empowering students to bring hope to others, they will work with people who are in need such as the elderly and economically poor. This broad exposure helps clarify our students’ unique gifts, talents, and interests.

RCS Students must earn ministry service hours each year for a grade in their Religion classes.

Grade	Hours
7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grades	20 hours (8 school, 8 parish, and 4 community)
9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Grades	25 hours (10 school, 10 parish, and 5 community)
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> Grades	30 hours (12 school, 12 parish, and 6 community)

Theology teachers will specify how the hours are to be divided throughout the year for grading purposes. **Half of students’ ministry hours must be performed before Christmas Break. The other half is due by the end of the school year.**

Routine family responsibilities such as chores or babysitting; work at school that is part of the student’s obligation as a student; youth group or club activities that are considered part of the student’s obligation as a member of that group ARE NOT CONSIDERED FOR PART OF THE MINISTRY CREDIT HOURS.

Students who earn DOUBLE the required credits will be recognized on Awards night. Seniors who earn double the required credits for 9<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> years will also be recognized with a special cor

Examples of acceptable ministry hours:

- Any activity for a non-profit organization
- Parish related activities to help others (mowing church/rectory lawns, folding Sunday bulletins, painting, mission trips, and other youth group or parish projects)
- Visiting the elderly in nursing homes or VA Hospitals
- Participating in activities that benefit the community such as Heart Walk, Coast Cleanup, Relay for Life, and Rock-the-Night
- Helping at a local soup kitchen

- Creating and mailing care packages to soldiers overseas with collected donations.
- Organizing a canned food drive in your parish and donating the food to a St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Collecting donated toys for children in a local hospital cancer ward.
- Visiting hospital patients and distributing Christmas cards, Valentine's cards, or other cards.
- Volunteering to help at a Special Olympics event.

**Examples of NON ACCEPTABLE ministry hours:**

- Any paid activity.
- Any IMMEDIATE FAMILY ACTIVITY (i.e. household chores, mowing the lawn, babysitting siblings).
- Any activity performed for a business.
- Any club activity that is required and not totally voluntary.

*Students are encouraged to keep a log or record of service work performed and of service hours submitted to the teacher. Verification may be required by the teacher.*