



Tips for Successful Community Involvement for Parents

When should students do their community involvement activities?

Students may begin after the completion of their 8th grade year. Students should complete their 20 hours before student-led conferences in March of the student's senior year.

What types of activities qualify for the 20 hour community involvement requirement?

Job shadowing, mentor experiences, and community and school service activities all qualify for the 20 hour requirement.

- Job shadow or find a mentor related to a future career or area of interest. For instance, a student who is interested in pursuing a career in engineering might job shadow a civil engineer as they do their job.
- Volunteer with a community service organization or complete a community service project. For example, a student who is pursuing his Eagle Scout award may construct park benches for a community park, or plant trees to improve the community.
- Find a non-paid activity through a community organization or charity, and volunteer for community service projects.
- Work on a school service project not required for a class. School service may be counted for 10 of the 20 required hours.
- Hours required by a school class, the courts, or any other institutions due to discipline or restitution may not be applied. Hours must be non-paid.
- Students may combine several experiences to accrue 20 hours.
- All service should benefit a group, or community, rather than 1 person.

Finding and Making Contact:

- Your family may have friends and trusted adults you know who have careers of interest or who are involved in local community service activities.
- You may have experience with community organizations that sponsor volunteer and service activities.
- Contact persons must be adults age 21 or older. They may not be family members.

Keeping Safe:

Student safety is an important concern. **The North Thurston Public Schools does not select or supervise community outreach activities and cannot assure the student's safety during these activities.** The community outreach activity is the sole responsibility of the student and student's parent/guardian, and as such the student and student's parent/guardian agree to hold harmless, indemnify and defend the North Thurston Public Schools, its agents, employees

and directors from any and all claims, costs and losses including reasonable attorney fees associated with the community outreach activity.

Parents/guardians are urged to be actively involved in selecting and monitoring community involvement activities. Here are some tips to help you find safe community involvement activities:

- Have your child volunteer with an organization that has a long history in our community.
- Have your student work with someone known to you personally or professionally.
- Be sure your child employs “basic safety skills” such as working in a group of people rather than one-to-one, engaging in activities that are safe for teens, not walking alone at night, and avoiding hazardous activities.
- Make sure that you know where your child is, what they are doing and when they will return.
- Meet the community contact person in person prior to having your child start the activity.

Other Tips:

- Consult your family calendar early and help your child determine time outside of the school day when they can work on community involvement.
- Discuss issues of transportation, safety, family responsibilities, and the like prior to the start of the activity.
- Encourage your student to have their documentation form signed and returned to their school promptly after their community involvement activity.