



Family of God Service Program Requirements

We are all part of the family of God, brothers and sisters. Just like in our own family, we love and help each other however we can. But, we are also called by God to help and serve all of our brothers and sisters in our own community and around the world. When we are doing service, we are loving God, our family, and our neighbors. Let us always be mindful that we love each other and are part of the family of God.

Service is an integral and essential part of our Catholic Identity. The ultimate goal of service is to create disciples- to create children and youth that can always answer “How can I make Jesus present in the world today?” By practicing some of our Catholic virtues and values, we can learn to identify how we as individuals can make Jesus present to others.

Service helps us become faith-filled people and gives us the opportunity to demonstrate compassion, consideration, and respect for others. It also helps us celebrate, understand, and apply our Gospel values. Service is incorporated into the school culture, ensuring that students learn the value of serving others in our local and global communities. Each class participates in a service project that serves our local or global community.

Here at Our Lady of Lourdes 5th through 8th grade students have Service Journals to reflect in and keep track of their service work throughout the year. All service forms and reflections are kept in these journals. Students will carry their journal with them through all four years and will be able to see all the service they have accomplished. Students are expected to perform service throughout the year as part of their religion class. They will receive points for the number of hours performed as well as points on their reflective essay. At least half the hours must be completed to write the paper.

The total hours **required of the students increases each year. Students may earn up to half of those hours during the prior summer. The hours for each class are as follows:**

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| Incoming 5th graders: | 5 hours / 2.5 hours credit from summer |
| Incoming 6th graders: | 10 hours / 5 hours credit from summer |
| Incoming 7th graders: | 20 hours / 10 hours credit from summer |
| Incoming 8th graders: | 30 hours /15 hours credit from summer |

Service hours performed need to be signed off by the adult supervising the service. This should be done immediately following the service. Service can be recorded on a school form (enclosed and available on our website). The type of service, the date, the amount of time, the supervisor's signature and reflections should all be filled out on the form. Keep your completed forms during the summer and your teacher will give you further instructions in the fall.

Students are encouraged to perform different types of service - a combination of school, parish and community. This will give them a broader perspective of the contributions they make and they will generally find their reflective paper easier to write as they have a greater wealth of experience to draw from.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- *Half your hours served during the summer will count towards your total required hours.
- *Hours must be validated **as soon as possible** after they are completed. **DO NOT** wait until the end of the year. Forms are available on the school website, and on the bulletin board by the Service Office. Service can come at unexpected times-carry a form with you!
- *Students should try to perform some hours in each area of service in order to get the most benefit from the experience.
- *Parents may not count their student's service hours as part of their volunteer hours.

There are many opportunities in which to earn service hours. If you have any questions, contact Mrs. Heimbigner.