



Cabrini High School

2023-2024 New Student Service Hours Requirements due at Back to School Day – August 2023

Rationale

In the legacy of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, as part of our Religion curriculum, all incoming **pre-freshmen and new freshmen are required to complete 10 hours of volunteer service** during the months between their acceptance to Cabrini High School and the August 2023 Back to School Day.

Students at a Catholic school are called to share their gifts for the building up of the Kingdom of God on earth, the Body of Christ. Therefore, service to those in need and service to the Church and larger community are necessary for living discipleship throughout one's life. Service to others is important:

- As part of the Christian call for building the reign of God on earth, doing our part to make this world a better place.
- For reaching out and helping others, putting others' need before our own as a way to experience God's reign in the here and now.
- To see God in the faces of those to whom we give of ourselves

General Criteria

All service performed must be done voluntarily, outside of school, and without payment. Service is not service just because it is done voluntarily and without financial compensation. It should help those less fortunate and/or build up the life of the church and community.

These hours **must** be performed for an organization meeting the criteria below. Service at commercial businesses is not permitted. Service at most government entities is not permitted. The service supervisor signing for the service hours cannot be one's own parent or guardian.

You **must** receive advance approval via e-mail from the Campus Ministry Office to ensure that hours will be acceptable to the school. Submit your request to servicehours@cabrinighigh.com. Failure to follow this procedure may result in the hours being refused at the Back to School Day and you not being able to begin classes on time in August.

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Acceptable Service Organizations

Cabrini does not provide a list of pre-approved organizations but rather broad categories that are acceptable. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the school did provide a list of possible and suggested agencies but we have found over the past two years and that agency contacts, volunteer criteria, health restrictions, and other issues change frequently, resulting in the list being out of date as soon as it is published.

The following are types of organization and agencies that could be acceptable for completing the Cabrini service hour requirement:

- Any non-profit organization holding a 501c3 designation from the IRS; if the non-profit is not well-known, proof of 501c3 status may be required.
- Any church or religious sponsored entity or program. Examples include altar serving, Vacation Bible School, church parish fairs, church parish service events through youth ministry/CYO or other church parish organizations
- Summer camps that are organized as a 501c3 non-profit
- Service activities sponsored by Scouting organizations
- Organizations addressing hunger and homelessness such as Catholic Charities, Second Harvest Food Bank, etc.
- Organizations serving the elderly such as nursing homes, senior citizen centers, etc.
- Organizations serving general literacy and education such as public libraries
- Organizations serving persons with disabilities
- Organizations serving healthcare needs of those without access to healthcare
- Organizations and agencies serving to preserve and care for the natural environment, animal welfare, etc.

NOTE: No organization that promotes or offers services contrary to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church will be considered for Cabrini service hours.

Documentation

A log sheet is *not required* for service hours, however it may be used to keep track of how many hours you complete. **A letter on the organization's official letterhead, stating the type of service performed and the total number of hours worked, signed and dated by her supervisor is the required documentation.** This must be turned in on Back to School Day for it to be considered a valid completion of the required service work.

Service hours are a mandatory part of the Religion curriculum. Students who do not complete the required hours and fail to turn in the required documentation will not be allowed to complete Back to School Day and therefore, will not be allowed to begin classes.

Students at all grade levels may qualify for a Cabrini Star Award. To receive a Cabrini Star Award, a student must perform 100 hours of service **more than the required hours for their grade level (110+)** and the volunteer service must meet the same above criteria.

If you have questions, contact John Smestad, Jr., Director of Campus Ministry, jsmestad@cabrinihigh.com or at (504) 483-8690.