

Stewardship Service Hour Guidelines

April 2023

Important guidelines in order to receive credit for Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours:

- **Service hours must be turned in, within 90 days of completion in order for you to receive credit for the hours. (Example, if you complete the hours on 6/15, your completed form must be turned in, via email, by 9/15.)**
- Forms turned in after 90 days will NOT be accepted.
- You are required to earn 20 Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours based on the Corporal Works of Mercy. Can you earn more? We hope so! But you do not need to hand in more than 20.
- A minimum of 10 of your service hours must be complete and turned in no later than January 15th of your 7th Grade year, but you may turn in as many as you like!
- The last 10 of your service hours must be complete and turned in no later than January 15th of your 8th Grade year.
- You may turn all 20 hours in, as early as you desire.
- **You must complete a minimum of 4 different types of service for a minimum of 1 hour per service. There is no maximum hours you can earn*.**
 - *(*Baking has a maximum of 3 total hours service credit. If baking is your passion and you are a Chef Extraordinaire, you must come talk to us for prior approval of additional hours. Please note: Boxed and prepared cake/brownie/etc. mixes only count for the actual hands-on time it took you to mix them. Mixing brownies for 3 minutes, and putting them into the oven to bake for 50 minutes, doesn't add up to an hour's time.)*
- As a responsible young person preparing for Confirmation, you must complete your own Service Record Form, and it must be completed in your own handwriting. Parents must not complete their child(ren)'s forms; forms filled out by parents/adults will not be accepted and will be returned.
- Your parent must review your completed form and sign off on the bottom of every form you turn in. You do not need the person in charge of the event to sign anything.
- Prior to turning it in, you may fill in as many service records on one form as you would like. A full form is acceptable, as is a form with only one service record listed; your choice. You must stick to the 90 day rule, regardless of whether or not the sheet is full.
- You must make a photocopy of your completed service hour form to keep for your own records. In the event there is a discrepancy or question about your hours, you can go back to review your form.
- **All completed service hour forms must be emailed to PrepServiceHours@lccAnnandale.org. You may either take a photo of the completed form, or scan it. This is the only method you should use to hand in your completed form. Hard copies will not be accepted.**
- Don't forget, you can complete all your hours, as soon as you want. You should not wait til January of 8th Grade to do them.

(See the opposite side/next page for the Do's and Do Not's of Stewardship Service Hours)

Do's and Do Not's of Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours

The below will NOT receive credit for Confirmation Stewardship Service Hours:

- Anything for which you are already counting the service hour credit for another organization such as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Junior National Honor Society, etc.. This includes badges and awards; no double dipping.
- Anything you are counting for PREP's Family Spiritual Exercises
- Anything related to sports, dance, cheer, band, choir, or other extracurricular activities not listed, including fundraising, score keeping, or Snack Shack or the like. (*Only Special Exception: Coaching a Special Needs child.*)
- Anything related to private organizations, clubs or lessons that involve performances such as dance, vocal or musical or theatrical troupes are not permitted. (*Special note: While StarMakers may well be a wonderful organization, service hours through any organization are not permitted, including StarMakers.*)
- Anything that benefits you or your class (eg. raising money for a class trip or class event)
- Anything for which you are paid (eg. paid babysitting, but babysitting for free is okay, paid to help a neighbor is not okay, but if you do it for free, it is okay)
- Anything for your family; we are expected to serve our families without credit.

Approved Confirmation Stewardship Service Opportunities:

We will email you any opportunities that come to our attention, but you must also seek your own opportunities.

Church:

- Assist PREP Catechists by caring for their children while class is in session
- Clean the church; help decorate for the holidays [Check the bulletin to see if requests arise.]
- Assist at parish socials organized to bring parish members together
- Assist at the Parish Festival
- Prepare casseroles for sick parishioners or neighbors
- Serve at Pancake Breakfasts or Fish Fry's (in Lent) sponsored by the Knights of Columbus
- Altar serving – Sunday Mass, funerals, sacraments, etc.
- Become a Pro-Life Volunteer: Annual Life Chain in Flemington (October) Annual National March for Life in Washington, DC (January) or the NJ State March on Trenton (January)
- Pick up sticks in the Mary Garden

Community:

- Get a partner to team up to do the service hours with!
- **Create a service PROJECT:** time spent brainstorming, creating flyers, handing out flyers, collecting materials, organizing collected materials and delivering collected materials all count towards your service project.

(See Next Page)

Before beginning any of the below, always check with an organization you have in mind, to make sure to follow their policies and meet their needs.

- Make and donate a Lasagna: lasagnalove.org
- Volunteer at Senior Citizens Centers and Nursing Homes; sit & talk, make cookies, play an instrument, sing Christmas Carols, arrange a picnic, play games, read to the residents, make and send Valentine's, etc.
- Organize a group of friends to go Christmas caroling at the Hunterdon Developmental Center
- Assist with Meals on Wheels deliveries
- Prepare food baskets, or trays of food, for the needy
- Help at school organized activities (that are not required of you and do not benefit your graduating class, but which benefit others) – Christmas Secret Shoppe, Grow a Row, etc.
- Serve the homeless
- Organize a food drive (or mitten, hat, scarf, socks, diapers, baby supplies, or other drive) in your neighborhood and deliver to a local food pantry [Food Pantries: Clinton 908-730-7320, Flemington 908-788-5568, Catholic Charities in Phillipsburg 908-454-7986]
- Organize a Pet Supply drive (food, toys, old towels, etc.) [St. Hubert's Animal Shelter in North Branch 908-526-3330, Hunterdon SPCA in Milford 908-996-2525, or others]
- Organize a baby shower drive/collect items for mothers in need [Life Choices in Phillipsburg: 908-387-0020, Pregnancy Aide Center in Raritan 908-526-8121, or others]
- Visit the homebound, the elderly, people recovering from illness; help them with yard work (raking leaves, shoveling snow) or household chores (dishes, shopping, cleaning, putting up or taking down Christmas decorations)
- Volunteer at Junior Olympics, Special Olympics, Cancer Society, Animal Shelter, or coach a Special Needs Child, etc.
- Tutor young children
- Participate in walk-a-thons for charitable purposes.
- Participate in Environmental services, clean-ups, etc.
- Pick up litter in your neighborhood, local park (area of student's choosing) either for several hours 1 day, or 1 hour a day throughout the summer, or each time you take a walk, etc.
- Provide free in person homework support/encouragement to K – 3 grade school student (preferably a child known to your family) who many need some support.
- Create a 'Rock Painting' or 'Shell Painting' program of encouragement/kindness: Find some beautiful rocks or shells. Paint them and leave words or signs of Jesus, God, love, hope, kindness or joy on the porch of friends and family members, or on a path or trail or the beach that your family likes to frequent.
- Collect kid friendly DVD's for RWJ children's hospital.
- Collect and drop off unused toys to the Ronald Mc Donald House. (*This is a house where families are allowed to stay if their child is extremely sick and in the hospital for a long time.*)
- Shop for and drop off for families in the Ronald Mc Donald House.
- Collect items for children that are having an extended hospital stay at RWJ or another hospital.
- Give Greeting Cards of all types and all holidays, for parents of sick children, or the children themselves.
- Collect and donate fun Band-Aids to hospitals for children who are in the hospital, or must have blood tests frequently.