

QUALIFYING SERVICE GUIDELINES

EXAMPLES OF QUALIFYING SERVICE for Christian Service Awards

PARISH

- Altar serving and lecturing (altar serving should only take 1-2 hours maximum, make note on Service Record for a special Mass)
- Stuffing newsletters or helping in the office
- Cleaning, picking up trash in the parking lot; helping with maintenance, painting projects
- Choir (no rehearsals or travel time)
- Vacation bible school leader/counselor (no overnight hours)
- Babysitting during Mass

SCHOOL (nothing during class time, i.e. altar serving, choir, reading buddies)

- Helping to set up classrooms (during summer or before class)
- Organizing the library
- Student council (activities and events – no meetings)
- Choir performances (no rehearsals or travel time)
- Tutoring other students (before or after school)
- School crossing guard
- Raising/lowering flag
- Start a service club (ask a teacher or two to sponsor)
- Fall Festival (selling tickets, set up, clean up, face-painting)

COMMUNITY (no paid babysitting or babysitting any family members)

- Serving lunch, dinner, boxing food at SVDP, Andre House, Paz de Cristo, etc.
- Start a drive for things like coats, canned food or school supplies (Operation Gratitude)
- Start a project of your own for a cause you are passionate about – examples from past recipients include knitting prayer shawls for cancer patients and rescue/placement service for pets
- Organize a group service project at your parish or with your classmates (ask for parents to volunteer to drive a carload of kids to volunteer site)
- Write letters to the active military, package care boxes (Packages from Home)
- Help your elderly neighbor – with yardwork, easy fix-it or painting projects, housecleaning
- Read to the blind (SAAVI), young children or seniors
- Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts (no meetings or outings, only service projects)
- Volunteering at the public library
- Helping at other schools (public or Catholic)
- Visiting, playing games with the elderly at assisted living facilities
- Nun Run or charity walks (walking or volunteering)
- Many local Catholic organizations need volunteers: SVDP, Catholic Charities, Maggie's Place; and non-Catholic organizations: Feed My Starving Children, Cal Christmas, Packages from Home

WHAT DOES NOT QUALIFY AS SERVICE for Christian Service Awards

- Meetings (no meetings of any kind qualify towards service hours)
- Travel time (travel time to your place of service does not count)
- Rehearsals, practices do not count
- Scouting outings do not count (unless it is a group service project)
- Fundraising, in which proceeds benefit the applicant, applicant's family or a for-profit organization, in any way does not count
- Performances only count if the event benefits the elderly, sick, disabled or a non-profit organization (including church and school)