

## 5 Things to do to find Community Service Hours in Your Area

# 5 Things to do to find Community Service Hours in Your Area

### ABSTRACT

Key information when looking for and deciding on what programs are a good fit for you.

American Youth Council, Inc.

## 5 Things to do to find Community Service Hours in your area

### 1. Determine what type of community service hours you need:

- For court-appointed requirements
- For school
- For volunteering



### 2. Learn about the specifics of the process

- **Court-appointed** community hours are very specific, and most governments/courts will require you to get the hours locally, through an approved organization or government entity.

Make sure when you search the internet to use the term 'court appointed community service' followed by your city. You should find many opportunities, such as the United Way, the Humane Society, schools and churches.

In most cities, the United Way has a listing of organization where you can find court ordered hours on its website. If there is no website listing, call them for information. They want to help.

- **Community service hours for high school and college** are typically determined by individual school districts and teachers. To receive curriculum credit, a community service program must be approved by the state Department of Education.

Some states do not allow any credit for community service, while many offer and encourage both community service and Service Learning. Here is a comprehensive list from the Education Commission of the States (2014):

<https://www.ecs.org/state-policies-for-service-learning/>

*Service Learning* sets standards for measuring community service and its application to curriculum. For more information, here is the Wikipedia explanation

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service-learning>.

- For **personal or corporate volunteering** as community service, the two best resources are [www.greatnonprofits.org](http://www.greatnonprofits.org) and [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org). Another helpful method is to type 'volunteer opportunities \_\_\_\_\_' with your city in the blank. This will show other opportunities in your city.

### 3. Make sure it's really what you want

- Service projects and volunteering are typically pretty serious commitments. The people and organizations that you'll work with will expect you to be prepared and ready to work. Pick a project or organization that is a good fit with your personality and your passions for service. You won't get much out of a project or program that doesn't meet your personal needs for fulfillment.
- There are a lot of organizations out there that need help in a lot of different ways. Global Giving connects professionals with companies for Skilled Volunteering opportunities <https://www.globalgiving.org/companies/skilled-volunteering/>
- Here is a great article from Energize about Volunteer Rights: <https://www.energizeinc.com/art/federal-law-protects-nonprofit-volunteers>



### 4. Be creative

- There are lots of ways that community service can be done. Anything from a math assignment to babysitting can be turned into a project. Here is just a brief idea list from our training materials:

Research, prepare, and give mini-lectures to peers or younger youth on art styles, influences, history, etc.

Conduct folk life research by mapping neighborhoods, interviewing shopkeepers, drawing interiors of building, inventorying produce at local markets, and collecting artifacts/curios from the neighborhood; research can be housed in local libraries or hospitals or other public buildings.

Teach residents in retirement homes Spanish or other languages so residents can communicate with employees who make speak other languages

You can download free service project idea lists from our website here:

<https://www.americanyouthcouncil.com/free-resources>

## 5. Get help



- At the risk of a shameless plug for ourselves, we'd love to help you.

We'd love to have guest bloggers from the areas of Youth development, Community Service and Service Learning, so contact us through our website [www.americanyouthcouncil.com/contact](http://www.americanyouthcouncil.com/contact)