

Gerstell Academy 12th Grade President's Summer Challenge

Leadership: The art of positively influencing others to unite in a common direction and guiding them to improve themselves and their community.

This is your final President's Challenge in your Gerstell Career and with this challenge it is important to put all the elements of your leadership development together. One of the most important elements in leadership development is to improve your ability to mentor another person or a group of people. This year's challenge adds the component of mentoring and reinforces those skills you have previously employed to be a positive influence in your community.

The Challenge is entirely voluntary.

The Challenge:

1. Perform a minimum of 25 hours of community service
2. This community service must have a mentoring component
3. Read the book "*The Power of Nice*" by Ron Shapiro and Mark Jankowski

When complete write a minimum 400 word reflection titled: "How my mentoring improved me and positively influenced others." In your essay explain the community service you performed, how you mentored someone during this service, and what that experience did to improve you and the individual(s) you mentored. Connect your service to the Gerstell Academy Leadership Model and lessons learned from the book "*The Power of Nice*".

The essay will be turned into your twelfth grade leadership teacher no later than the first day of classes. Please type this essay. Document your community service with your Advisor by turning in a community service form no later than the first day of classes; attach a copy of your essay to the form which will serve as your reflection.

Typical organizations for your community service: churches, synagogues, or other houses of worship, civic organizations (Rotary, Lions, Scouts, and Optimist Clubs), veteran organizations, food banks, shelters, local governments, hospitals, thrift shops, youth organizations, YMCA's, community centers, libraries, senior centers, and humane societies are all good possibilities. The mentoring portion of this challenge means you will have direct interaction with other individuals that will benefit from the interaction. Ask yourself this question: "Will this service directly help or instruct others or develop another person's leadership." If the answer is yes it qualifies.

Some examples:

- Working at a camp as a counselor, being the daily example for campers.
- Being part of a group where you help develop another individual's ability. Such as working at food bank instructing younger workers.
- Working at the Carroll County Senior Center directly assisting elderly participants
- Working with the Special Olympics directly assisting the athletes
- Working with the Special Olympics directly training other assistants

- Teaching someone how to provide a service to others such as cutting a lawn, tending to a garden, how to assist an elderly neighbor.
- Working on a nature trail where you are instructing others and giving them tasks and responsibilities to develop their leadership skills.
- Working at Bear Branch Nature Center interacting with visitors
- Working at the Boys and Girls Club providing daily guidance and leadership to younger participants.
- Teaching others how to organize a food drive or household goods drive to help others in need.

What does not qualify:

- Just performing a service such as working at a food bank providing assistance.
 - o Only cutting someone's lawn
 - o Gathering donations and dropping them off

Please make your parent's aware of the service you plan to accomplish and get their approval.

The Reward

If successful you will receive recognition by:

- Going to lunch with Dr. Smith at a venue outside of school
- A single test grade of 100 in your Leadership IV course
- You will be reimbursed for the cost of the paperback edition of the book which can be purchased on Amazon for approximately \$15.00