

Community Service at Gerstell Academy

All Upper School students are required to perform a minimum of fifteen hours of service each year for a minimum of 60 hours over their four years in the Upper School. Of the 15 hour requirement a minimum of 5 hours each year must be for community and 5 hours for school service. Hours earned in excess of the fifteen hours each year will be recorded and part of each student's transcripts, however they will not fulfill the requirement for future years. This is in keeping with the goal of instilling a mindset of ongoing service to others and not merely meeting the required hours.

Examples of possible service activities are:

- **Direct Service** such as tutoring or helping at a nursing home
- **Indirect Service** such as organizing a food drive or cleaning up the Bay
- **Advocacy** projects such as MADD, Just Say No, or DARE.
- **School Service** such as Open Houses, Shadow Days, Holiday Projects

Service-Learning activities that are not on the pre-approved list must have prior approval from the student's advisor. Students shall: **not** be paid for their service; **not** earn hours for service to a for-profit business; **not** earn hours for service in preparation for or during religious services (e.g. church choir); **not** earn hours for assisting family members with tasks such as cutting the lawn or babysitting. Please check with the Upper School office if you need clarification.

A ***Community Service Award*** will be given at the Upper School graduation ceremonies each year to students who display excellence in the area of service to their community.