

Central California Conference Office of Education  
Community Service / Service Learning Guidelines for Grades 9-12

Revised 5/15/13

**Rationale:** "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not for one of the least of these, you did not for me.'" --Matthew 25:45

**A Reason for Being:** "Adventist education is so much more than the rigorous academic standard and high student achievement for which we are known: it's fostering a faith in God and a respect for all, building characters that will stand firm in a world of compromise. It's nurturing independent thinking and promoting a lifetime of service over selfish ambition. It's training young people for service to the world and to the church."

--A Journey Worth Taking: Journey to Excellence Adventist Education

The Pacific Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists accepts the following philosophy that the Christian Service concept is predicated on two basic relationships: (1) the student's relationship with God; and (2) his relationship to other people. Once the relationship with God is established, then the individual is increasingly capable of reaching out to others. (1 John 4:21)

"True education is missionary training." (MH 395) "It is necessary to complete education that students be given time to do missionary work, time to become acquainted with the spiritual needs of the families and communities around them." (CT 545)

Human nature, because of sin, tends toward selfishness. Of Jesus it is said, "From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose: He lived to bless others." (DA 70) He calls all to follow His example and experience the joy of self-less service.

The Pacific Union Conference has adopted the following policy, found in the PUC Education Code section 2522, IV, *Community Service / Service Learning*.

**Graduation Requirement:**

Effective with the class of 2005, students shall participate in a minimum of 25 clock hours of *community service / service learning* for each year of attendance in an Adventist school. These clock hours **may not be applied to the Work Experience Education requirement** as outlined in the Pacific Union Education Code C25-104, Note 13.

**Community Service/Service Learned defined:**

The alliance for Service Learning in Education Reform defines school-based SERVICE LEARNING as a method by which young people learn and develop through active participation in thoughtfully organized experiences that include the following components.

Service Learning will:

1. Meet actual community needs
2. Involve students in the community
3. Support the mission of the school
4. Structure time for students to think, talk, and write about the service activity
5. Provide the students with opportunity for practical demonstration of academic skills
6. Improve the quality of the person(s) served

SERVICE LEARNING is a process in which students recognize and compassionately respond to the needs of the community. "The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.'" Matthew 25:40

Suggested ways to report:

- Questionnaire/Response form
- Service-learning Rubric

- School assembly – one student from each service group respond
- Reflective journal
- Student to student interview
- Video/audio/pictures – via technology presentation
- Portfolio
- Students share a report at a City Council meeting
- Student article to local newspaper, school website Pacific Union Recorder

Service Learning is a method by which young people learn and develop. This occurs through...

### **Community Service**

1. Meets actual individual or community needs
2. After the review of the mission statement
3. Should usually provide time for reflection by students

Suggested ways to share:

- Debriefing with the group after the activity
- Sharing at chapel and/or assemblies
- Sharing at Sabbath school and or church service
- Sharing at city council meetings
- Sharing at civic and/or patriotic gatherings

### **Guidelines for Selection of Appropriate Activities:**

1. Unpaid service outside of the student's home
2. Some activities should be outside of church/school circle to benefit the larger community
3. May not be something the student has been paid for in the past
4. Activities should be broader so as to not focus on one particular project or endeavor
5. Local community agencies may assist in developing appropriate activities
6. Activity that addresses an unmet community/church need

### **Facilitating / Scheduling:**

- School is to coordinate its schedule as a whole group for 12.5 hours of the 25 required hours during the school year.
- Administration is to keep track of hours.

### **Suggested Activities:**

- **Church Involvement:** "Desire to know, live, and share the message and mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church" -*Journey to Excellence in Adventist Schools, pgs. 6 & 7*
- Church evangelism meetings
- Mission trips
- Bible studies
- Church Community Service – Dorcas
- Church office / Leadership Activity
- Sabbath School teaching/teaching assistant
- Children's Story
- Vacation Bible School
- Youth Evangelism
- Music Evangelism
- Literature Distribution
- Pathfinder club volunteers
- Student Missionary Care packages
- Helping out in a sister church
- Audio visual assistants

- **Citizenship:** “Develop an understanding of cultural and historical heritages, affirm a belief in the dignity and worth of others, and accept responsibility for local, national, and global environments.” *-Journey to Excellence in Adventist schools, pgs. 6 & 8*
- Helping the homeless
- Reach out to the hungry
- Historical site preservation
- Volunteer child care
- Church/school/community beautification
- Community drives
- Local and national service projects
- Volunteer mission building projects
  
- **Building Relationships:** “Develop a sense of self-worth, skills in interpersonal relationships, and understanding of the responsibility of family membership, and the ability to respond to the sensitivity of others.” *Journey to Excellence, pg. 6 & 8*
  - Adopt a family/child
  - Tutoring/mentoring
  - Peer counseling
  - Running or putting on a Week of Prayer for another school
  - Parade participation
  - Neighborhood outreach
  - Hospital/nursing home volunteers
  
- **Healthy Balanced Living:** “Accept personal responsibility for achieving and maintaining optimum physical, mental, and spiritual health.” *Journey to Excellence, pg. 6 & 9*
- Cooking schools
- Drug prevention programs
- Health classes
- Health fairs

**Process for Recording:**

1. Students complete appropriate form to document service activity that has been signed by an appropriate sponsor/adult recognized by the school.
2. The form is submitted to Community Service/Service Learning coordinator, as designated by the administration.
3. The Community Service/Service Learning hours are recorded annually by the school registrar and as a separate line item on the transcript.

Adapted from the Pacific Union Conference Guidelines to be consistent with the *Journey to Excellence* curricular goals 1-26-06.