

THE PRESIDENT'S VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Service Hour Guidelines and Requirements

Hours by Award:

There are three levels based on the volunteer's age and the number of hours earned during a one-year period beginning September 1st- and ending August 31st of the following year. Hours are measured over a 12- month period and awards are designated based on cumulative hours. The awards are offered in multiple levels and designed to recognize each milestone of your service achievement. Levels include bronze, silver, gold and the highest honor, the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for those who contribute more than 4,000 hours of service in their lifetime.

Hours by Award	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Kids (5-10)	26-49	50-74	75+
Teens (11-15)	50-74	75-99	100+
Young Adult (16-25)	100-174	175-249	250+
Adults (26 and older)	100-249	250-499	500+
Families & Groups*	200-499	500-999	1,000+
President's Lifetime Achievement Award: Individuals who have completed 4,000 or more hours in their lifetime.			
*Two or more people, with each member contributing at least 25 hours towards the total			

Service Hour Rules:

1. Service log with application must be turned into Katie Chappell at Girl Scouts of Central & Western MA, 301 Kelly Way, Holyoke, MA 01040 or via email at program@gscwm.org no later than September 5th. You are welcome to turn your log and application in early. WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING LATE SUBMISSIONS.
2. Be certain your activity qualifies! **Volunteering** is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time and services. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. While singing in the choir, practicing an instrument, participating in sports or dancing are all worthwhile activities, their primary focus is skill development rather than being altruistic in nature. Ultimately, it is up to the certifying organization to determine which activities qualify for the PVSA. As a certifying organization, Girl Scouts of Central & Western MA will ultimately determine which types of activities may count towards this award. If you are unsure that your activity qualifies, confirm with GSCWM in advance. Please see the "PVSA What Counts" chart for examples of the types of activities that qualify or do not qualify.

3. List each day with activity performed and time spent on one line. For each reoccurring activity, such as a week-long activity like Vacation Bible School, you may list dates and total hours on one line.
4. Travel time may be submitted as qualifying time with a max of 9 hours per day.
5. Maximum allowed per day for any volunteer activity is 9 hours per day. Time spent sleeping, eating, socializing, etc. does not qualify. Travel time counts within the maximum of 9 hours allowed per day.
6. Total all hours at the bottom of log sheet.
7. Log must be approved and signed by employee of volunteer organization. No parent signatures will be accepted! Contact information for supervising adult must be current and legible for verification of hours in October.

Examples of “WHAT COUNTS” towards PVSA

COUNTS	DOES NOT COUNT
Volunteering to play an instrument/sing at a nursing home. Time spent at a nursing home with residents performing and visiting – counts.	Practice time to prepare to volunteer and perform at the nursing home does NOT COUNT towards PVSA hours.
Volunteering as a peer mentor or as supervised or directed by teacher at extra-curricular school activity*. There can be NO incentive provided monetarily or with grades/extra credit as this is considered “payment.” *May NOT be performed during a student’s class time (PE, math, etc.).	Helping a friend or classmate with homework or to study for a test.
Participating in 5K as long as it is for <i>fundraising event</i> either as a runner/walker OR as a volunteer to help out at the event. <u>Please use integrity when reporting time spent participating as a runner/walker in a fundraising 5K.</u>	Participating in a 5K that is not a fundraiser (for example “The Color Run”).

COUNTS	DOES NOT COUNT
Time spent raising money for a cause (lemonade stand, etc.) also counts towards volunteer hours accrued).	Donating money to a cause.
Volunteering with youth groups for community projects (Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, Community Garden, etc.) or participating in service activities through a school club.	Being part of a leadership club, student council at school or as a member of youth group/religious school. Meetings do not count.
<p>Volunteer work with a church, temple, or synagogue.</p> <p>Volunteering with children in Vacation Bible School or tutoring children in Hebrew may count as volunteer work.</p> <p>Volunteering to drive a person coming to your church, temple, or synagogue to do charity work counts.</p>	<p>Volunteer work with a religious organization may count so long as students do not proselytize (to try to persuade people to join a religion, cause, or group).</p> <p>Volunteering for your church, temple, synagogue when it involves participation in religious rituals does NOT count (for example: serving as an altar server, preparing or giving sermons, assisting clergy with religious rituals or services, lighting candles in synagogue, singing/dancing/performing during a religious service, etc. does not count)</p> <p>Giving up your room/bed to host a missionary or other public sector worker does not count.</p>
Babysitting in a faith-based nursery, daycare, women or men’s shelter, or community center counts.	Babysitting for friends or family, or for any compensation.
Volunteering with language club, or other school sponsored clubs - in the community - may count towards the PVSA.	Hosting a foreign exchange student is a wonderful thing to do, but does not count as volunteer work.
Preparing and delivering food or other necessities to others in need as part of a volunteer position with a community based organization - counts.	Helping a friend, family member, or neighbor in crisis is a wonderful thing to do, and often is the right thing to do; however, this help does not qualify as “volunteer work” in the community.