

SAINT MONICA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

CHRISTIAN SERVICE POLICY

In response to the goals of Saint Monica Catholic High School, "To encourage responsible participation in the world community," and St. Monica Parish, "To form loving disciples who will transform the world," St. Monica has a graduation requirement of 100 hours of **approved** Christian Service. The program is progressive both in number of hours and level of community participation. It is expected in the learning process students will be exposed to different communities of need and hopefully serve others outside their existing comfort zone. Students must receive written approval from their current grade-level religion teacher **prior to beginning any project (hours dated or completed prior to religion teacher signature will NOT be counted)**. A questionnaire and essay detailing information about the location and nature of the project is also due to the religion teacher prior to beginning any project. Students are not permitted to serve more than three organizations. Each student must find two possible placement opportunities with a reputable **AGENCY** (supervisors must be official representatives of the agency), complete the upper portion of two Service Hour forms entirely, and have these two forms pre-approved by their religion teacher by the first Thursday in December (**December 6, 2007**). The Campus Minister and religion teachers reserve the right to disapprove any project as they see fit. No financial compensation may be received for any service provided. These hours must be completed annually during non-school hours within the specified areas broken down below. Students may not apply extra hours from one year to the next.

9th Grade/FRESHMAN YEAR: 20 Total Hours. At least 10 hours to be served working directly with a parish, synagogue, mosque, temple, or other religious community. The remaining hours can be served in any grade level focus area.

<u>ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>	<u>UNACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>
Participating in parish outreach programs i.e. poor, elderly, AIDS	Participating in sports teams, dances, or other social outings
Organizing a blood or food drive for their church	Working at carnivals, such as Octoberfair and similar fund raising events
Teaching CCD or religion courses to children	Donating food/blood
Commitment to scheduled liturgical ministry i.e. altar serving, lecturing, choir (not to include training or practice hours)	Performing office/clerical work at a parish
	Babysitting
	Working for a relative or friend

10th Grade/SOPHOMORE YEAR: 20 Total Hours. At least 10 hours to be served working directly with youth. The remaining hours can be served in any grade level focus area.

<u>ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>	<u>UNACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>
Working with kids with Down Syndrome or special education needs	Participating as a member of a youth team
Providing care for AIDS or addicted babies at a hospital	Serving in school leadership positions (ASB, clubs, Campus Ministry, music, etc.)
Working with at-risk youth (Police Activities League)	Performing office/clerical work
Acting as an official coach/moderator for youth teams, music, or other programs for an AGENCY (YWCA, YMCA, AYSO, Little League etc.) – requires full season commitment.	Babysitting
Tutoring in an organized program	Working for a relative or friend
Camp counseling	Refereeing
Coaching disabled children	Working at a school day care or private day care facility

11th Grade/JUNIOR YEAR: 30 Total Hours. At least 20 hours to be served working with elderly, infirmed, or disabled. The remaining hours can be served in any grade level focus area.

<u>ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>	<u>UNACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>
Caring for the elderly at a convalescent home	Performing office/clerical work at a hospital, clinic, convalescent home
Working as a care-giver at a hospital	Participating in AIDS Dance-a-thon and similar fundraisers
Supporting/training an individual through Special Olympics	Babysitting
Working at a camp or facility with blind, deaf, terminally-ill, or disabled	Working with a relative or friend
Reading to or bringing Eucharist to the elderly	
Delivering meals to elderly and homebound	

12th Grade/SENIOR YEAR: 30 Total Hours. At least 20 hours to be served working directly with the poor. The remaining hours can be served in any grade level focus area.

<u>ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>	<u>UNACCEPTABLE PROJECTS</u>
Preparing and serving meals at a shelter for the homeless	Bringing in food, clothing, or money for drives
Distributing clothing at a Salvation Army or Goodwill outreach center	Coaching for at-risk youth
Working with assistance programs to refugees or immigrants with a certified agency.	Babysitting
Planning and creating a food drive outside of school auspices	Performing office/clerical work
	Working with a relative or friend

***** Students must turn in completed questionnaires PRIOR TO BEGINNING A PROJECT or hours will not be counted. Students must also turn in fully completed hours sheets and a reflection paper in keeping with the parameters set by the religion teacher by the second Thursday in May (May 8, 2008). Students must meet this deadline (there are NO exceptions to the deadline) or they must complete the summer school Christian Service Review class before returning in August. Any incomplete, unsigned, or improperly signed forms will not be accepted and summer school will be required.***