

Community Service Graduation Requirements

One of the seven expectations of our *PIHS Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations*, states that each student will “recognize the importance of participating in community activities.” Part of preparing students for responsible community membership is an awareness of the needs of that community.

For the purpose of this policy, **community service** is an unpaid activity within the school or outside community that provides service to an individual or group to address a school or community need. The activity must be developmentally appropriate and meaningful to the student.

As a requirement for graduation, all students must complete 40 hours of community service over the course of their high school career prior to the end of the 3rd quarter of their senior year. Students are recommended to perform 10 hours of community service each year. The community service requirement will be pro-rated at the rate of five hours per semester for a student who enters Presque Isle High School after the beginning of the ninth grade year.

- No more than 20 hours in the same activity will be counted toward the 40 hours needed for graduation.
- Judicially ordered community service acts or hours will not count toward the service learning graduation requirement.

Objectives:

- Enable students to help others, give of themselves and enter into caring relationships with others.
- Enhance self-confidence of students and appreciation of others
- Become sensitive to individual differences and cultural diversity
- Develop knowledge, learning and respect for community and citizenship skills
- Give students more responsibility for their learning
- Impact local issues and local needs

Guidelines:

- Service must be performed for a nonprofit organization or other individuals for “no pay”.
- Each student will be assigned a faculty advisor (a.k.a. their homeroom teacher)

- The student will be responsible for obtaining and carrying out a community service to earn Wildcat hours
- The advisor will be responsible for recording project hours, assisting students in implementing their service plans, and updating records for his/her assigned students through the high school years.
- The student will provide records to substantiate time spent on his/her project. Such records will be signed by an individual who can verify the service has been preformed. Verification information must be provided about the supervising individual.
- Upon completion of a project, the advisor will validate the record and have it placed in the student's educational record.

Any concerns with the implementation or acceptance of any project should be directed to the student's individual advisor. The PIHS community service committee will review questionable activities. If the student is not satisfied with the answer, he/she may appeal to the High School Principal. If still not satisfied, an appeal may be made to the Superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

Allowable Service Activities but not restricted to working for:

Library	Non-profit Agencies
City, Town, County or State Government	United Way
Recreation Department	Salvation Army
Hospital / Nursing Home	Red Cross
Health Care Services	Food kitchens/ food pantries
Church	Political Organizations
Service Clubs	Animal Shelters and/or
Snowmobile /ATV Clubs	Animal Rescue Operations
Big Brother/ Big Sister	
School - tutoring, reading to elementary students, class projects etc. – during non-school hours	
Little League / Youth Hockey , non school sponsored sports or activities	

Activities **not** accepted for service:

Work with for-profit businesses and corporations

Work with religious organizations if the service involves promoting a particular faith

Work that will be financially reimbursed

Participation in a sports team or other extra-curricular activity **UNLESS** that group designs a service-learning project that contains the components in the objectives

Assisting a teacher (i.e. – correcting papers, cleaning the classroom – during school hours)

Artistic performances UNLESS students are involved in creating a project that includes a performance as an outcome of the project

Attending training or other education event UNLESS that training leads directly to a service project



*Presque Isle High School
Wildcat Service Hours Verification Form
16 Griffin Street Presque Isle, ME 04769*



Student Name: _____ Grade: _____

Description of Service:

Date(s) of Service: _____ Number of Hours: _____

Time(s) of Activity: _____

Name of Supervisor: _____

Position of Supervisor: _____

Phone number of Supervisor: _____

We hereby verify the above described service was completed in coordination with all the guidelines outlined by the PIHS Community Service requirements.

Student Signature _____ Date

Student name – please print

Supervisor Signature _____ Date

Supervisor name – please print