

Alexander City Schools
Wildcat Community Service Challenge



“Serving Today for a Better Tomorrow”

"Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile."
- Albert Einstein

Revised January 30, 2015

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Purpose

The purpose of the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge* is multi-fold. First, we hope to instill in our students a sense of service that will assist in their personal and academic development. Such activities provide students with experiential opportunities to learn in the real world and to develop skills of citizenship and community engagement. Second, we hope to foster school system engagement with the larger community that furthers the academic and public purposes of the school system, while simultaneously strengthening our community. And third, student-based community service affords community partners with opportunities to address significant needs.

Student Goals

- Students will develop a greater sense of personal interests and talents, self-worth, self-efficacy, personal identity, spiritual growth, and moral development.
- Students will experience interpersonal development, particularly the ability to work well with others, and build leadership and communication skills.
- Students will reduce stereotypes and gain a greater inter-cultural understanding.
- Students will understand social responsibility and develop citizenship skills.
- Students will develop life-long interests in community service.
- Students' academic development will be positively impacted.
- Students will apply what they have learned in school to "the real world."
- Students will develop higher order thinking skills, with a better understanding of complexity, ambiguity, problem analysis, problem solving, critical thinking, and cognitive development.
- Students will gain a better understanding of diversity, culture, and socio-economic differences in our community.
- Students will make connections with professionals and community members for learning and career opportunities.
- Students will develop leadership skills.

Students Challenged

The *Wildcat Community Service Challenge* is issued toward all students of the Alexander City School System in grades 7 through 12.

Community Service Work Requirements

- All community service work must be documented annually on the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge Documentation Form*.
- This initiative recognizes the importance of service in each student's church or religious-based organization and within the student's own school. However, it is important that students move outside their normal environments and build relationships across the community. Therefore, no more than 25% of the community service work shall be allowed for

church/religious-based organizations and 25% for their own school. A minimum of 50% of the total community service hours must be outside church/religious organizations and the student's own school.

Work Requirements per Grade Level

- 7th – 8th Grade = 10 hours per year
- 9th – 12th Grade = 25 hours per year

Community Service Requirements for Alabama High School Diploma with Honors

Beginning with the freshman class of 2015-16, those students seeking the *Honors Diploma* tract must complete 100 hours of community service collectively in grades 9-12. The only exceptions will be for students who enter our school system after starting the 9th grade or other extenuating circumstances approved by the principal and superintendent. Those entering after 9th grade must meet yearly requirements for each year of attending BRHS. In order to stay on track to meet the required 100 hours, students seeking the *Alabama High School Diploma with Honors* are encouraged to meet the yearly goals set forth in the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge*.

Student Rewards for Completion of Challenge

- See the *Student Goals* section.
- Students' completion of the challenge will be annually documented on their academic transcript, and the student will receive with a *Community Service Challenge Certificate*.
- Lists and pictures of completers will be annually published in local media outlets and school publications.
- Beginning with the 14-15 freshman class, students who meet the minimum hours of community service for each year in grades 9-12 will receive a *Community Service Diploma Endorsement*. A seal on the diploma and documentation on the academic transcript will note this.
- When funds are made available through sponsorship or the local school systems, small favors such as t-shirts or other items may be made available to completers of the challenge. No guarantee of such rewards is made.

Submittal of Documentation

- Students in grades 7-11 will submit documentation of completed community service by the end of the third nine-week grading period each school year. Seniors must submit their documentation at the conclusion of the first semester. On a yearly basis, the principal will provide directions for submittal.
- All community service must be documented as required and an official of the community organization/agency must sign for each event.
- A school committee will yearly evaluate submitted documentation and approve the community service hours for each student. If the committee

finds a discrepancy, an effort to resolve the matter with the student will be made by the committee. All approved documentation will be forwarded by the committee to school counselors to be filed and noted on transcripts.

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Examples of Community Service Opportunities

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."
- Maya Angelou

Community Agencies

Alexander City Rescue Squad
American Red Cross
ARISE, Inc
Boy Scouts
Boys & Girls Clubs
Camp ASCCA
Camp Fire USA
Domestic Violence Intervention Center
Food Bank of East Alabama
Girl Scouts
Head Start
Lake Martin Laubach Literacy Council
Meals on Wheels
Palmer Place Child Advocacy Center
Tallapoosa Aid to People (TAP)
The Lighthouse of Tallapoosa County
The Salvation Army
Tri-County Children's Advocacy Center
United Way
Volunteer Connections of Central Alabama

Community Initiatives

2-1-1 Statewide Referrals for Human Services
Children's Summer Reading Program
Coast2CoastRx – Prescription Card Savings
EFSP (Emergency Food & Shelter Program)
Home Depot Veteran's Home Repairs
Prosperity Again Thru Health (PATH)

Other

Local Schools
Local Hospitals
Humane Society
Community Events
Chamber Events
Community Organizations

"Everyone can be great, because everyone can serve."
- Martin Luther King, Jr.