



BLESSED TRINITY

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE EXPERIENCE

INFORMATION BROCHURE

PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

This document provides information about the Christian Community Service grade level and overall diploma requirements for students and parents, and for the approved persons and organizations who are asked by secondary students of Blessed Trinity to sponsor a Christian Community Service activity.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION

Christian Community Service in the Niagara Catholic District School Board enables students to show solidarity with people who are in need and who require assistance. It provides students with an opportunity to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ and puts into practice the social teaching of the Church. It fosters an understanding of civic responsibility and participation, helps young people develop and share their skills with others in the wider community and develops strong ties between students and their community which will foster valuable and long-term relationships.

As stated in Ontario Secondary Schools, Grades 9 to 12: Program and Diploma Requirements, 1999 (OSS) every student who begins secondary school during or after the 1999-2000 school year must complete a minimum of 40 hours of community involvement activities as part of the requirements for an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD). These activities may be completed at any time during their years in the secondary school program. Notwithstanding the above, in the Niagara Catholic District School Board, Christian Community Service is an essential component of the Religious Education program for students in grades 9 to 12.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Each student's experience will address curriculum expectations for the culminating assignment where reflection on their service is evaluated. In this light, it is important for every one of our students to make meaningful connections to our community members in need.

At Blessed Trinity, in order to complete the culminating assignment, the following hours are built into the curriculum for each year level. This annual guide assists students by budgeting hours annually so that in any one year a student is not overwhelmed by having to complete them all. Following our annual guide prevents leaving all of the hours until the grade 12 year and then having to complete all 40 hours while completing coursework to gain admission to post-secondary studies.

Grade 9	HRE10	10 hours Required
Grade 10	HRE20	10 hours Required
Grade 11	HRF30/HRT 3M	10 hours Required
Grade 12	HHS4M/HZT4U/HRE 4O	10 hours Required

Students are only permitted to one community service project per experience. Students who complete all of their community service hours by the beginning of the course will still be required to still a unique Christian Community Service project based on service from the current year.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Christian service obtains its defining qualities and inspiration from Scripture, both the Old and the New Testament. It is clear from these sources that the service in question is directed towards those who are less fortunate.

Accordingly, in its authentic and primary sense, Christian service is a gratuitous ministry, inspired by Jesus' teaching and example, extended to those who are in need or who suffer in any way, and offered in the spirit of human solidarity that reflects Jesus' statement that "whatever you do the least among you, you do it to me".

Therefore, Christian Community Service is a service one gives to the community. It is service spent on community projects, which could be of a cultural, humanitarian, athletic, or fund-raising nature. The community could be a club, a parish, an organization or a public institution. **The community or organization for which the service is performed must be not-for-profit and previously approved by the Principal or the Program Chair of Religion.**

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE

- An event or activity designed to be of benefit to the community;
- An event or activity to support a not-for-profit agency, institution or foundation that conforms to Catholic standards and does not conflict with Catholic values;
- Any structured program that promotes tutoring, mentoring, visiting or coaching, or whose purpose is to assist others who require the benefit of that assistance;
- Participation in global initiatives/projects that do not conflict with Catholic values;
- Participation in an event or activity that promotes positive environmental awareness and action;
- Participation in activities that promote the human rights and well-being of all groups in society, as long as the values of these groups are in harmony with Catholic teaching;
- Participation in an event or activity affiliated with a club, religious organization, arts or cultural association or political organization that seeks a positive contribution to the community and is not in conflict with Catholic teaching.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

STUDENTS

In consultation with their parents/guardians, students are responsible for selecting approved Christian Community Service activities. The forms Notification of Planned Christian Community Service and the Completion of Christian Community Service Sheet must be completed each year during the semester that they have their religion course by each student and submitted to their religion teachers before the established due dates. It is the responsibility of the student to complete all required documentation and submit them within required timelines.

Students are expected to:

- Complete their hours in a manner that demonstrates a positive work ethic and respect for others;
- Be punctual;
- Dress appropriately;
- Use good manners;
- Follow instructions;
- Follow through on commitments;
- Clarify instructions when in doubt; and
- Maintain confidentiality.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians should provide assistance to their son/daughter in the selection of their Christian Community Service activities. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with community sponsor and the school principal or program chair of religion if they have any questions or concerns. A parent/guardian must sign the Notification of Planned Christian Community Service sheet and the Completion of Christian Community Service sheet, if the student is under eighteen years of age.

While parents may be involved in similar volunteer activities we ask that neither a parent nor guardian sign to verify the hours. In these cases we ask that a non-relative verify the hours.

COMMUNITY SPONSORS

Community Sponsors are responsible for providing a safe environment and the appropriate training, equipment and preparation for students who will be under their supervision. They must be aware of the "ineligible activities" as outlined above and in the Information Brochure. The person supervising the student's activity must verify the date(s) and number of hours completed on the Completion of Christian Community Service Form.

PRINCIPALS

Principals are responsible for sharing information and documentation with students, parents and the broader community, approving special requests, and ensuring that completed Christian Community Service hours are entered on a student's official transcript and report card.

INSURANCE

The Niagara Catholic District School Board's liability insurance covers students who are involved in Christian Community Service, but it is recommended that students participating in the program purchase Student Accident Insurance.

Community Sponsors are responsible for ensuring that their own liability insurance will protect them for their involvement in this program. As with other programs, the school board's insurance does not provide coverage for the negligence of the community sponsors.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES FOR CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Any service work for: community agencies, churches, service organizations, individuals who are in need, any activity pre-approved by the principal or program chair of religion.

Approvals

The Notification of Christian Community Service Form should be completed and approved BEFORE starting the community service project.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- any activity that provides direct financial benefit or other gain (political, social, etc) to the student or to the student's family; and
- any association with an organization or an activity that conflicts with the ethical standards and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- any activity that was initiated by the principal or vice-principal as disciplinary action(i.e. community service hours in lieu of suspension or detention etc.)
- Christian community service completion sheets cannot be signed by any relative.
- a requirement of a class or course in which the student is enrolled (e.g., co-operative education portion of the course, job shadowing, work experience);
- takes place during the time allotted for the instructional program on a school day; however, activities during the student's lunch breaks or "spare" periods are permissible;
- takes place in a logging or mining environment, if the student is under sixteen years of age;
- takes place in a factory, if the student is under fifteen years of age;

- takes place in a workplace other than a factory, if the student is under fourteen years of age and is not accompanied by an adult;
- would normally be performed for wages by a person in the workplace;
- involves the operation of a vehicle, power tools, or scaffolding;
- involves the administration of any type or form of medication or medical procedure to other persons;
- involves handling of substances classed as "designated substances" under the Occupational Health and Safety Act;
- requires the knowledge of a trades person whose trade is regulated by the provincial government;
- involves banking or the handling of securities, or the handling of jewelry, works of art, antiquities, or other valuables;

OTHER INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e. daily chores) or personal recreational activities;
- involves a principal/vice-principal initiated program(i.e. community service hours in lieu of suspension or detention)
- involves a court-ordered program (e.g., community-service program for young offender, probationary program);
- scorekeeping for school teams

FURTHER INFORMATION

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