

Qualifications of Community Service

“Community Service” is...

Active unpaid participation in the community, and usually involves working with others and facing real life problems and issues head-on. It helps you make a connection between yourself, the skills you have to offer and the needs of the community. Community service focuses on creating positive change in the community where both the server and served learn from their interaction.

Examples: Painting a youth center, serving food at a shelter, or providing dental care to the homeless

Community service has other benefits you can only get from serving the community where you live. Leadership skills are developed, and by participating in community service, you may experience:

- Team work
- Real-World Problem Solving Skills
- Awareness of Multicultural Issues
- A Broadened Global Perspectives
- Compassion and Concern Towards Others
- Active Citizenship
- Various leadership skills including time management, communication, values, and ethics

Instructions

- Submit your community service hour hours online within 30 days of the date the service was completed.
- We will verify that you performed the community service at the service site.
- You can only submit hours for time actually spent performing community service – **drive/transportation time to and from an event can not be included.**

Examples of community service hours that will **NOT** count are as follows:

- Club Activities
 - General club activities, such as tabling or building web sites
 - Anything that falls under your responsibilities as an officer/member
- Fundraisers
 - Raising funds for clubs or organizations
- Tutoring
 - Tutoring of other SDSU students without prior permission from Student Life & Leadership. An example of volunteering that **would** count as community service would be tutoring at an elementary school or volunteer tutoring with students in the Casa Azteca program
- Service that is paid

- Anything where you or your organization gets paid for the service
- Family
 - Service to your family
- Non-Charitable Service
 - Service that does not help those "in need" - for instance, volunteering at your high school annual band competition, singing for services at your local religious organization, etc. will not count
- Service to for-profit entities
 - Ex: Stocking at your Uncle's grocery store will not count, even if you are doing it for free
- Political activities - seek prior permission from Student Life & Leadership
- Internships
- Independent, Unapproved Projects
 - Individual projects that are not connected with some sort of service organization or agency unless prior approval has been received from Student Life and Leadership. For example: "I spent 3 hours walking around campus with a friend picking up trash"

Philanthropy and Volunteerism is...

A desire to help mankind through the giving of gifts, usually monetary in nature (philanthropy), or through time (volunteerism), to humanitarian or charitable organizations.

Examples: Food drives, raising money for a cause, or collecting prom dresses

On campus examples: Greek Philanthropy where money is raised for a cause, volunteering at move in day or Explore SDSU Day

While philanthropy is great for the people it helps, it is focused on giving rather than a reciprocal process of serving others and learning from the service. Volunteerism with on campus activities is very popular for students, however, it focuses on the campus community rather than serving the San Diego community. For this reason, giving of your time to activities performed on campus is considered volunteering.

Both "community service" and "philanthropy/volunteerism" are important.

You can report **all hours** (both community service and philanthropy/volunteerism) in the online form. Only "community service" hours will be counted towards the 100 hours SDSU Community Service Certificate however.