COMMUNITY SERVICE POLICY

What is the community service requirement?

All students in Grades 9-12 are required to participate in a minimum of 10 hours of community service each year. Required hours for graduation are a cumulative 40 hours (10 per year of high school). Students must complete the community service requirements prior to March of their senior year. The years of 2019/20 and 2020/21 are excused and community service hours were not expected during these pandemic years.

The end-of-year CRIA Report Card and Transcript will reflect the successful or unsuccessful completion of required community service hours.

What qualifies as community service?

- Community service hours must be completed at a non-profit organization.
- Volunteering at a for-profit business will not count towards community service hours
- A student may volunteer for a single organization or at a variety of organizations.
- Paid experiences do not qualify.
- Working without pay at your job or for a family business does not qualify.
- Students cannot earn hours for donating items or money...only their time.
- Students cannot earn hours for teaching friends a skill, or for dog-sitting, house-sitting, etc.
- The community service requirement will be prorated for students transferring into CRIA high school (5 hours per semester of attendance).
- Hours must be completed outside of class time and may not be part of a credit course.
- Time spent in meetings for National Honor Society and/or Student Government Association do not qualify for CS hours. However, if NHS or SGA students are participating in organized events outside of school hours, those hours will count towards CS hours.
- There is a maximum number of hours to be earned on Community Service trips and must be **pre-approved**. A week long CS trip will be awarded no more than 22 hours.
- Summer hours are not accepted. Community service hours must be completed during the official school year between mid-August and mid-May (end of April for Seniors).

Students must complete a Community Service Verification Form for each organization he/she volunteers at. A supervisor's signature is required on each form. **The parent of a student may not sign as the supervisor, unless he/she is a CRIA faculty member.** Verification forms are located with the student's Homeroom teacher and with Counseling Office. Forms must be submitted within one month of the date of service and are to be kept in each individual student's Community Service folder which is kept with the student's homeroom teacher.

What is the purpose of the community service requirement?

The purpose of the community service program is to provide all CRIA high school students the opportunity to have a positive impact on our local community while learning that service to others is an on-going part of life. The requirement is to encourage students to develop awareness and understanding of civic responsibility and of the role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening their communities. The community service requirement is also an opportunity to celebrate the many contributions that our young people make in our communities.

What qualifies as community service?

- Community service hours must be completed at a non-profit organization.
- Volunteering at a for-profit business will not count towards community service hours
- A student may volunteer for a single organization or at a variety of organizations.
- Students are encouraged to complete their hours in areas related to their personal interests.
- Paid experiences do not qualify.
- Working without pay at your job or for a family business does not qualify.
- Students cannot earn hours for donating items or money...only their time.
- The community service requirement will be prorated for students transferring into CRIA high school (5 hours per semester of attendance).
- Hours must be completed outside of class time and may not be part of a credit course.
- Time spent in meetings for National Honor Society and/or Student Government Association do not qualify for CS hours. However, if NHS or SGA students are participating in organized events outside of school hours, those hours will count towards CS hours.
- There is a maximum number of hours to be earned on Community Service trips and must be pre-approved.

How do I prove my community service hours?

Students must complete a Community Service Verification Form for each organization he/she volunteers at. A supervisor's signature is required on each form. **The parent of a student may not sign as the supervisor, unless he/she is a CRIA faculty member.** Verification forms are located with the student's Homeroom teacher and with Counseling Office. Forms must be submitted within one month of the date of service and are to be kept in each individual student's Community Service folder which is kept with the student's homeroom teacher. All but 5 hours per academic year must be earned within the academic year. Up to 5 hours may be earned during the summer months only if served within the CRIA community and must be **pre-approved** by the Director or Counselor. The deadline for submitting community service hours is May 15th of each school year, with the exception of a senior's hours which must be completed before April 30th.

COMMUNITY SERVICE IDEAS

- CRIA sponsored clubs and activities such as National Honor Society (NHS) and Student Government Association activities held outside of school hours.
- The Tamarindo Chapter of the **Surfrider Foundation** holds a beach clean-up on the first Saturday of each month
- Parent Association activities such as the Halloween Haunt, Party at the Playa
- Santa Cruz Orphanage
- Abriendo Mentes
- Casa Brasilito
- Bandera Azul (Blue Flag) Program
- Saturday CRIA organized Beach/Roadside Clean-Ups
- Food Bank (Conchal)
- Volunteer in the library after school or during free periods (NOT Study Hall) if library staff willing to supervise
- Volunteer for any structured program that promotes tutoring, mentoring, visiting or coaching, or whose purpose is to assist others who require the benefit of that assistance. Students requiring tutoring would be identified through the CRIA high school faculty. This must be approved by the College Counselor prior to offering tutoring services.
- Volunteer at an animal rescue center

Examples of what will NOT qualify for Community Service hours:

- Volunteering at a veterinary office, summer camp, or hotel. These are for-profit businesses.
- Volunteering at your parents' mechanic shop. This is a for-profit AND you cannot be supervised by a parent.
- Picking up trash on a Saturday morning with your mom. This is unverifiable and a parent cannot supervise and sign the forms.
- Walking your neighbor's dog. Taking over someone else's personal responsibility will not count as community service. Walking dogs for an animal rescue organization will count.
- Trading services with a friend: I dog-sit for you, you dog-sit for me; I teach you Korean, you teach me Arabic.