

Community Service Information for Cold Spring Harbor Students

Cold Spring Harbor has a rich tradition of giving back to the community. From school-wide fundraisers to toy and food drives, our students have always thought of others and we know they will continue to do so.

When looking for community service, many students work to compile hours for admission into the National Honor Society. Each school district has its own chapter and by-laws associated with admissions and the below information may help to clarify what constitutes community service, with specific regard to Cold Spring Harbor's National Honor Society chapter.

Service must take place at in a minimum of two (2) school or non-profit community organizations. Membership on an athletic team cannot be included for community service. All out-of-school community service must be verified by a letter on the organization's official letterhead. Parent signatures must be accompanied by that of another adult involved in the community service. Any hours accumulated through a family-related organization must be approved by the advisor **prior to submission of the log**. Separate letters (on organization's official letterhead) are required for each of the community service activities that students participate in. The number of hours, specific dates, phone numbers, signatures, contact information and the actual duties performed must be discussed in the letter.

Any students wishing to apply for National Honor Society in their junior year must accrue community service from at least two different organizations/groups in grades 9, 10 and 11. Students must have contributed a minimum of **20 hours of community service in each grade level for a total of at least 60 hours over three years.**

Community service should be completed through school-based events or through non-profit community organizations. Unpaid work at for-profit institutions (traditional workplace offices, medical offices, etc.) is not considered community service. This is considered an unpaid internship.

Example:

If a student is working through a for-profit organization and gives of their time to a cause for the greater community, those hours may be considered. For example, a student who does clerical work in a doctor's office without pay is not considered to have performed community service. However, if as part of that work the student helped to run a Saturday event where the doctor's office partnered with the American Cancer Society to provide free cancer screenings at a street fair in Huntington Village that could count. Again, only the hours that were spent on the American Cancer Society would be logged and noted in a separate letter from the employer.