DEFINING THE TERMS

Community Service

*Community - (world, country, state, town, neighborhood, school or nonprofit organization)*

The emphasis of community service is on the people being helped and the service being offered. These are services, which are identified by an institution of higher education, through formal or informal consultation with local nonprofit, governmental, and community-based organizations, as designed to improve the quality of life for community residents, or to solve particular problems related to their needs, including such fields as health care, child care, literacy training, education welfare, social services, transportation, housing and neighborhood improvement, public safety, disaster relief, crime prevention and control, recreation, rural development, and community improvement; among others.

Volunteering

Volunteers are people who do work of their own free will and without pay. The emphasis is on the work or act being done. Although done without pay, these services have no direct impact on the community or abroad. Activities such as mowing the neighbor's lawn, assisting at your place of worship, running errands, babysitting, etc; are **not** considered JSU-acceptable service.

COMMUNITY SERVICE GUIDELINES

Service hours must be submitted prior to the each semester deadline, and hours submitted must be accrued during the semester of service rendered. Deadlines for each semester are printed on the community service form for that semester. Hours that are not submitted during the academic semester of the service rendered will not be accepted. Students may complete any combination of community service, campus service or service learning to fulfill their 120-hour service requirement. Military and Veteran students must provide documentation from the Veteran's Center, located on the 1st floor of Reddx Hall, to receive the sixty (60) hour exemption credit. **All students enrolled at Jackson State University prior to Fall 2010 are not required to complete the 120-hour requirement for service. Students who transferred to JSU are only required to complete 60 hours of service.**

All community service sites not on the official agency partnership list of CSCEL must be from a 501(c)3 organization and must accompanied by a validation letter on the agency letterhead, NO EXCEPTIONS! Volunteering (**see definition above**) is not acceptable for required community service hours. Community service must be completed through a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, or a federal, state or local government agency.

Please note that the approval of all community service hours and all service sites will be determined by the CSCEL staff. If you are not sure if the organization is an acceptable place to fulfill your community service requirement, or your service site is not listed on CSCEL’s approved agency list, please contact The Center for Service and Community Engaged Learning at 601-979-1294 or stop by our office in Suite 110, Jacob L. Reddx Hall, before the completion of service, for verification. Failure to meet the criteria as outlined will result in the rejection of submitted community service hours.
KNOW WHAT’S ACCEPTED...

Acceptable Hours

• Campus wide service projects
• Any service project sponsored by the Center for Service and Community Engaged Learning
• Welcome Week Service Project
• Homecoming Week Service Project
• Clubs or organizations sponsored community service projects to a non-profit organization.
• Campus mentoring and tutoring without financial compensation
• Service rendered to any agency partner of the CSCEL (list provided in the Center, 1st Floor Reddix Hall)
• CSCEL staff approved non-profit agencies (not listed on CSCEL partners list (prior CSCEL staff approval is needed)

Hours That Are Not Acceptable:

• Students cannot receive academic credit, salary, or any other money for services rendered
• Students may not receive community services hours for attending a club meeting or event, games, practice, rehearsals, competitions and performances in school related events
• Service for the sole benefit of a religious house of worship and/or its congregation is not acceptable. (For example, teaching Sunday school will not be considered as service hours. Activities through a religious organization must be service to a broader community, such as work at a soup kitchen or a park clean-up, in order to receive service credit)
• Students may not receive community service hours for promoting a political candidate, or working on a political campaign. (community service is non-partisan)
• Service completed for a for-profit organization will not be considered community service
• Students may not receive community service hours for contributing a donation (i.e. giving food, clothing, money, etc.)
• Students may not receive community service hours for attending organization meetings, participation in student campaigns or general activities such as homecoming activities, pageants, etc.
• Any service, not listed, that’s provided to an event, organization or company deemed inappropriate based on the definitions given above.