

NHS Service Hour Guidelines

2025-2026 School Year

Community Service

- **12 hours** of community service are required.
- Dates of service:
 - Current members – 7/1/25 - 5/1/26
 - New members - 11/1/25 – 5/1/26
- Failure to fulfill this requirement will result in removal from NHS.

Not remembering these dates is NOT an excuse. Hours outside of these dates will NOT count!

Community Service Forms

- Due May 1
- Forms are 100% digital – use Microsoft link on NHS website
- Form must ONLY be completed by adult
- Failure to fulfill this requirement correctly, completely, and on time may result in removal from NHS by faculty council.

ACCEPTABLE Service Ideas

- Food Bank of the Southern Tier
- 5K for a charitable cause
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing
- Arctic League
- Library
- Animal Shelter
- Blood donations/blood drives
- Collecting cans/bottles
- Letters to soldiers/notes to health care workers or first responders

ACCEPTABLE Service Ideas

- Park cleanups
- Making gifts for nursing home residents
- Dance/gymnastics volunteer
- Church volunteer
- Goodie bags for first responders/health care
- Habitat for Humanity
- Military care packages
- Shoveling/yard work for elderly neighbors
- St. Jude's Virtual Valentines
- Tanglewood volunteering
- United Way Golf Tournament volunteer
- Wings of Eagles
- www.billiongraves.com
- www.operationgratitude.com
- www.freerice.com
- Family Reading Partnership of Chemung Valley

What DOES NOT count as acceptable service?

- ⑩ Any double dipping – NHS hours may not be used for anything else. *Ex: Interact advisor compares hours and will not accept hours already used for NHS.*
- ⑩ Anything that is paid
- ⑩ Anything that is required (by church, clubs, sports, class, job, etc.)
- ⑩ Anything that benefits you, your family, or organization you belong to
 - Boy or Girl Scouts
 - Work for other clubs you belong to – no Varsity H, GRP, class officer, band/choir, etc.
 - **NO CONCESSION STANDS!!!** (raises money for your organization)
 - Sports requirements
 - Religious practices (ex: singing at church, confirmation courses)
 - Family obligations (ex: helping grandpa, babysitting cousins)

Checklist to determine if service is eligible:

- Are you being paid?
- Are you helping family members?
- Are you required to do this?
- Are you helping an organization you belong to?
- Are you raising money for an organization you belong to?
- If you are volunteering at an event, is it private (not open to the public)?
- Are you doing the service for any reason other than helping make your community a better place?

If the answer is YES to any of the above questions, the service will not be accepted for NHS requirements.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- ⑩ If you are not sure if your hours will qualify, ask your advisors BEFORE you do it. If you turn them in May 1 and they do not qualify, we will not count them.
- ⑩ Finally, remember that you are part of the National Honor Society. You were selected because of your academic abilities AND your character. **You should do community service because it is the right thing to do and there are many needs in our area, not to fulfill your hours as easily as possible.**

