

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.

