



## President's Student Service Challenge

The Points of Light Foundation and the White House recognize Blue River Elementary as a School of Service. For the last several years we have also been recognized as a School of Distinction for having more than 5% of our student body earn at least 50 hours of community service. Your children will need your assistance in completing and tracking their hours for the Presidential Student Service Challenge this year. Students who volunteer will be recognized at the end-of-the-year BRE assembly.

### **What can my child do to earn community service hours?**

**Animals:** Volunteer for a local humane society; volunteer for a pet therapy program for disabled individuals

**Environment:** Volunteer at a local recycling center; start a recycling drive; plant trees; clean up trash in the neighborhood or local park; start a campaign to raise awareness of pollution; serve on the Green Team at school; collect used items for donations

**Arts and Culture:** Volunteer at a local library or museum; create pictures for a local hospital or nursing facility; perform at a local nursing/assisted living facility with a choir or dance troupe; participate in a church choir (only performances count towards community service. Please do not include rehearsal time.); collect books for donation to a local charity

**Civic/Community:** Scout Service Projects; Fundraise for a local charitable organization; Grand Friends; Student Council; Character Club; participate in an organized walk or golf tournament for charity; help with disaster relief or clean-up; work for money and donate it to a charity; start a letter writing campaign to our military stationed in Iraq, Afghanistan, or elsewhere; make and send care packages to soldiers; volunteer for meals on wheels; bake cookies and make thank you cards for local civic employees (i.e. school principal and staff, firemen, policemen); participate in a political campaign (**You may count hours spent watching neighbor pets or collecting mail, doing chores for your parents or others, etc. if you have been paid AND the money has been donated to a charitable organization.**)

**Faith Based Organizations:** Volunteer at a local faith based facility (i.e. Church, Synagogue, etc.); prepare and/or serve meals at a local mission; be a bell ringer for the Salvation Army Kettles at Christmas; go on a Mission trip (**You may not count hours spent teaching religion**)

**Human Services:** Spend time volunteering at a local nursing or assisted living facility; organize a bake sale and donate the proceeds to the homeless

**Public Safety:** Safety team at school

You can also find suggestions and organizations by going to [www.presidentialserviceawards.gov](http://www.presidentialserviceawards.gov) and selecting the "Find Volunteer Opportunities" tab.

### **Helpful Tips:**

***Teachers will turn in hours spent at the school on projects and clubs.*** Students who participate in Green Team can expect to earn approximately 14 hours, Student Council approximately 20 hours, Character Club approximately 15 hours, and Safety Team approximately 40 hours. (*Note: Hours are approximate*) Students who participate in CSC sponsored events will automatically have their hours recorded (no need to record those on the log sheet).

***There may be a few after school opportunities along with other options for your child to earn community service hours.*** Emails and flyers sent home with your student will give you the needed information for these events.

***Please note that Community Service is defined as an unpaid act or activity that is beneficial to the surrounding community.*** One exception to this definition is to receive pay for your work that is then donated to a charitable organization. If your activity is not specifically listed above, you may be contacted to verify the hours. We cannot count hours turned in for chores or personal activities unless they fall under the guidelines listed above.

Start tracking your hours now.

Every time you serve others you make the world a better place!