

St. Margaret's Episcopal School
Upper School Community Service Program

Introduction

At the heart of St. Margaret's is a commitment to the whole student, gifted with intelligence, conscience, power, compassion, and love. Students need the opportunity in their education to move beyond academic endeavors and widen the ways they experience, view and reflect on the world. St. Margaret's is committed to helping students use their gifts to acquire a better understanding of and keener sensitivity to the needs and realities of their immediate and extended community. Community service provides such opportunities. As students serve others, they will learn profound and life changing lessons. Those seemingly in need of help often give back far more than they are given. In the Episcopal tradition, service to others is both our responsibility and our blessing, for it is God who has first served us.

Upper School Program

St. Margaret's requires all its students to participate in the community service program by completing a minimum grade level requirement for grades nine through twelve. Students are encouraged to move beyond their grade level requirement and work on other projects and in other areas of their choosing. Often students will find areas of special interest or need and work ahead on their requirements.

(A) The goals of service

St. Margaret's has instituted the Community Service Program so that students can

- Gain a greater and deeper understanding of their community and themselves as contributing, caring human beings;
- Experience a heightened awareness of and sensitivity to the needs of others not only within their school community, but also in the larger community;
- Develop the conviction to serve and the responsibility to follow through on this conviction;
- Continue to serve beyond the minimum by organizing their time, talents and resources to enhance the quality of life in their community and beyond.

(B) Program Details

All students are required to meet a minimum grade level requirement:

9th grade=	15 hours
10th grade=	15 hours
11th and 12th grade (combined)=	40 hours

Total hours=	70 hours

- Students must complete the minimum grade level requirement each year before they are allowed to begin classes in the fall. Seniors will not receive their diploma until their grade level requirement is completed.
- Each student's service history is part of the student's permanent record. Students must complete their requirements in the time that is prescribed by the school. They may work ahead on their requirements if desired.
- Hours served in excess of the required hours may **not** be used toward the succeeding year's requirement **unless** they meet the specific requirements for that succeeding year. However,

all hours served will be logged by the Community Service Director as long as proper documentation is provided. All hours served (those meeting the requirements and any additional hours) will then become part of the student's permanent record.

- Service hours may be used to fill the requirements for a service organization like National Charity League **OR** for the St. Margaret's school requirements, but the service hours may not count for both.
- Student initiated service clubs will continue as a complement to the service requirement.
- The school encourages and recognizes extraordinary service, which is performed with character, for the outside community and for the school community.
- Since this is an organic document not every facet of service or every issue related to service is included.

1) Ninth Grade

A) Required service- *Service Starts at Home*

- Fifteen (15) hours of service within the St. Margaret's school community, which are completed by June 1st of the ninth grade year.
 - (1) Service examples:
 - (a) On campus events
 - (b) Tutoring lower or middle school students
 - (c) Teaching assistants
 - (2) Rationale: Ninth Grade Service
 - (a) Gives students an opportunity to work in other parts of the school;
 - (b) Encourages a sense of responsibility for the school environment;
 - (c) Interconnects the school more completely.

2) Tenth Grade

A) Required Service- *We Learn from Those We Serve*

- Fifteen hours of person-to-person service to the "special needs" community. Hours must be completed by August 1st before 11th grade. Special needs include the disabled, poor, those "at risk" and the elderly.
- Service examples:
 - (a) Special Olympics
 - (b) Tutoring
 - (c) Special camp
 - (d) J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding School
 - (e) Elder care program
- (2) Rationale: Tenth Grade Service
 - (a) Provides students with an opportunity to serve those whom they might never otherwise meet and to learn from them.
 - (b) Acquaints students with the activity of locating and signing up for a project;
 - (c) Serves as an age appropriate activity;

3) Eleventh and Twelfth Grades (combined)

A) Required Service – *Personalizing Your Commitment*

- **Forty hours** of service to **one** non-profit organization of choice. The requirement must be fulfilled by May 1st before graduation.
 - (1) Service guidelines:
 - (a) The majority of these service hours should be person-to-person unless specifically approved by the Community Service Director US.

- (b) Students may select any non-profit organization of particular interest to them. The only exceptions to the non-profit policy are medical or elder care facilities.
- (2) Rationale: Eleventh and Twelfth Grade Service
 - (a) Allows students to participate in service opportunities of their choosing;
 - (b) Encourages sustained commitment to a particular clientele;
 - (c) Allows flexibility in scheduling.