

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Overview

Giving of oneself to others through acts of chesed (kindness), bikur cholim (visiting the sick) or tzedakah (charity) is a mitzvah that is an important part of the high school experience at Beth Tfiloh. All students are expected to participate in community service during the summer and/or the academic school year; however, each student may select specific community service projects according to his or her own interests.

Suggested Community Service Projects

Examples of Beth Tfiloh-based service include office assistance, library assistance, working in the synagogue gift shop, and other projects either of the student's own initiative or proposed by the school. Musical or theatrical performances for audiences outside of the Beth Tfiloh community, whether the performances are at Beth Tfiloh or elsewhere, may be counted towards the community service requirement; however, only the performance time itself will be counted.

Examples of service outside of Beth Tfiloh include work on behalf of Israel, the Associated and other Jewish institutions, visiting the aged and the infirm, working on behalf of the homeless and the hungry, reading for the blind, volunteering at summer camp, etc.

Examples of non-acceptable community service would be personal babysitting (even without pay), work for private businesses (even without pay), and political campaigns.

Requirements

- Ninth grade students must complete 18 hours of community service before the completion of their sophomore year (between June, 2010 and June, 2011).
- Tenth grade students must complete 30 hours of community service before the completion of their junior year (between June, 2010 and June, 2011).
- Eleventh grade students must complete 36 hours of community service before the completion of their junior year (between June, 2010 and June, 2011).
- Twelfth grade students must complete 36 hours of community service before the completion of their senior year.
- Up to 20 additional hours can be carried over towards the fulfillment of the next grade's community service requirement.
- Any work that a student uses to fulfill the community service requirement must be performed on a volunteer basis.
- As a student completes community service hours, he or she must fill out a community service form (see reverse) which is always available in the school office. **These forms require a description and length of time of service and the signature of the student's supervisor.**
- Community service project opportunities will be posted at various times throughout the school year. Mrs. Cherie Brownstein in the Youth Office and grade advisors can also be helpful in finding you community service opportunities.

