



NATIONAL  
FFA ORGANIZATION

# Community Service for FFA Degrees

## FFA Degree Community Service Guidelines

Created: 05/2017

*Community service is the engagement of individuals or groups in an organized activity that contributes to the local, national or world community. Community service activities are those opportunities that are available to all residents of a community. They consist of activities that make the community a better place to live and work. It is also known as volunteering which is defined as the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause, without payment, for their time and services.*

### **FOR ACTIVITIES TO BE ACCEPTABLE AS FFA DEGREE COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING MUST BE MET:**

1. The activity includes tangible community involvement by the applicant.
2. The applicant has an opportunity to gain skills and competencies or apply skills and competencies learned in the classroom setting.
3. The activity has a demonstrated positive impact and is focused on helping others, improving community resources or improving community infrastructure.
  - a. Community members impacted may not be members of the applicants own family.
4. The applicant must voluntarily donate his/her time, energy and knowledge outside of any class time, including non-agricultural education class time.
  - a. If the applicant is allowed to perform service in place of other required activities (*classwork for example*) it is not donated time and should not be counted.
  - b. Service required for reparations or punishment is not voluntary and cannot be counted.
5. Community Service activities can be organized by a group the applicant is a part of (*FFA Chapter, church congregation, sports team, etc.*), but the activity cannot be for the benefit of the group itself.

**Exception:** *If the applicant is a member of a group whose SOLE purpose for existing is to provide service (March of Dimes, United Way, American Cancer Society, etc.) an event put on by the group may benefit its own service mission.*
6. Activities listed/hours counted as Community Service cannot be duplicated in the FFA activities section of the application or as unpaid SAE hours. Activities/hours may only be used in one section of an application.

**FFA Degree Acceptable and Unacceptable Community Service EXAMPLES:**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Unacceptable</b>  <i>These examples are participation/engagement rather than service or directly benefit the participant.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Acceptable</b>  <i>These examples are voluntary, provide tangible benefit to the community and do not directly benefit the participant.</i></p>
<p>Participating in a fundraiser in which the profits benefit the FFA Chapter and/or chapter members.</p>	<p>Participating in a fundraiser organized by the FFA Chapter for which all profits are donated to the local children's hospital.</p>
<p>Organizing and/or participating in a fall leaf clean up at <b>your own</b> church/place of worship, club, business or a relative's home.</p>	<p>Organizing and/or participating in a fall leaf clean up for a civic building, community park, a church/place of worship at which you are not a member or for community members in need.</p>
<p>Volunteering as the scorekeeper, manager, concessions stand attendant, etc. for <b>your own</b> or <b>your school's</b> sports team, band, play, assembly, choir performance, etc.</p>	<p>Volunteering as the unpaid coach, scorekeeper, manager or referee for a <b>non-profit community</b> sports team, band, choir, dance troupe, etc.</p>
<p>Playing on a sports team or participating in a club, band, scout troop, church choir, etc.</p>	<p>Participating in community service activities with or organized by a sports team, club, band, scout troop, church choir, etc.</p>
<p>Participating in or conducting religious worship services/practices such as performing in choir, band, play, re-enactment, providing clerical services; proselytizing; teaching religion classes; etc.</p>	<p>Participating with or as part of a religious organization/group/congregation to provide meals, build homes, teach non-religion classes (<i>English language, employment skills, homemaking skills, etc.</i>).</p>
<p>Cleaned school shop windows as required service to make up for truancy or citizenship demerits.</p>	<p>Volunteer to clean windows at local library.</p>
<p>Showing your own or assisting relatives to show animals at a livestock show for an award or to sell.</p>	<p>Serve as a volunteer to organize/conduct a community education event/display at a livestock show or fair.</p>
<p>Train fellow FFA Chapter members for competitions, events, offices, etc.</p>	<p>Provide training to members of a 4-H club <b>of which you are not a member.</b></p>
<p>Serving as an officer in FFA, 4-H, scouts, Glee Club, etc.</p>	<p>Time spent planning, organizing and conducting a <b>community service project</b> as an officer or member of an organization/club/group. (<i>Cannot be double counted as an FFA or SAE activity for other degree requirements.</i>)</p>