

Service Project Suggestions

*Jesus said, "Here I am among you as one who serves."
(Luke 22:27)*

Before making a commitment to a service project, think about the variety of ways in which you can use your talents and abilities to help others. These suggestions are only some of the ways other candidates have chosen to serve. Perhaps something on this list will help you decide the service you would like to perform. The list may give you some other ideas of what you would like to do. Perhaps you, alone, or with a group of friends, have your own special service in mind.

Before making your decision and commitment:

- **Pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance**
- **Talk to your parents and sponsor**
- Find out *real needs* people in your neighborhood, parish, school or community have (you may want to use the Community Service Handbook that all Bethel Public School students received in June for specific organizations that are seeking volunteer service). Ideas include -but are not limited to:

Help prepare for a children's liturgy	Write cards or letters to hospitalized children, teens or veterans	Help in the school bookstore, library or cafeteria
Help in the CCD program	Collect food for the poor	Write letters to government officials about justice issues
Visit the elderly at home or in a nursing home	Perform special services for the handicapped	Work in a special education program
Assist senior citizens (non-relatives) with their chores.	Prepare a meal or dessert for a family whose parent or child died	Raise money for retirement funds for elderly religious sisters, brothers and priests
Organize or help with a recycling project	Collect toys for poor children	Coach or assist with young children's sports activities
Initiates a "clean-up" campaign in the parish, school or Local Park	Read to the blind	Help with parish mailings
Help a needy family	Make audiotapes for the blind or elderly	Help with a fund raising project for a charitable organization
Volunteer to work in a hospital	Make gifts or favors for hospitals or nursing homes	Collect, clean and repair clothing for the poor
Tutor after school	Prepare entertainment or holiday parties for nursing homes or child care centers	Earn money for the missions by washing cars, babysitting, etc
Shop for an elderly neighbor	Collect and deliver magazines to the emergency waiting rooms, hospital waiting rooms clinics and dialysis centers	Work at the food bank
Do approved yard work at the school or parish		Serve as a teacher's aid
Join a service group		
Bake for a cake sale		
Do volunteer work in a hospice		

The intent of service hours as a requirement for Confirmation is to help the students realize not only the great need of so many that are less fortunate than we are, but also to realize the tremendous sense of purpose and accomplishment we feel by being the "hands of Christ." Therefore it is really important to seek out real need - not just what is simply easy or accessible; to other words, go beyond your family needs. All the responsibilities that are part of being a family member do not count as "community service" hours - that's part of the "give and take" you are fortunate enough to have as being part of a family.

Please Note: If you have any questions regarding the acceptability of an activity as "community service," please see your teacher or the Religious Office for advice. All service hours will be evaluated when you submit them at the Workshop in January; activities that do not meet the criteria of true "service" will need to be resubmitted.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

COME, HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL, AND KINDLE IN US THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT AND WE SHALL BE CREATED, AND YOU SHALL RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH. O COD, WHO BY THE LIGHT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, INSTRUCTS THE HEARTS OF THE FAITHFUL, GRANT THAT BY THE SAME HOLY SPIRIT WE MAY BE TRULY WISE AND EVER REJOICE IN YOUR CONSOLATIONS. THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD, AMEN