

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

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Community Service Form for Students

During the spring of 2004, the Commission of Secondary Schools of the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools awarded accreditation to North Hunterdon High School. The Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools is a non-governmental, nonprofit, peer-administered organization of diverse educational institutions committed to the highest quality education for students. Its purpose is to ensure the continuous improvement of its member schools through effective leadership, self-study, peer evaluation, accreditation, exemplary programs, and supportive services. For two years, stakeholder groups from our school and community had met to identify three student objectives and develop detailed plans for realizing each of these goals.

Community service is one of the goals that came out of this process, and it is one of the three target areas in our Accreditation for Growth (AFG) school improvement plan. Community Service is broadly defined as work performed free of charge for the benefit of others (outside of your family). Our school's AFG Community Service goal calls for 75% of our freshmen students providing 20 or more hours of community service.

We now face the challenge of transforming this goal into a reality. We ask that you strongly encourage your child to take part in voluntary community service activities of their choosing. During this year your child's physical & health education teachers will be explaining what community service activities are available and how hours will be logged and validated. Former acting Governor Richard Cody introduced legislation for a pilot program that will eventually mandate a community service requirement for High School graduation. In addition to the positive experiences that students will gain from community service, they will be able to develop a portfolio of activities that they will document their accomplishments and be extremely useful as they prepare for college applications, job resumes and apply for membership in our school's National Honor Society.

Community service is defined as, but not limited to, volunteering time to community or school organization or groups, etc. for which you are not paid. Examples of community service are:

Aging: (any time volunteered to the elderly-example nursing home).

Animal Welfare: (SPCA, animal shelters, etc.).

Athletics: (not as a participant, but as a coach, umpire, helper, for community athletics, summer sports camps, summer recreation programs, little leagues, etc.).

Children and Youth: (daycare, YMCA, Big Brother, Big Sister, HealthQuest, Vacation Bible Camps, summer camps, etc.).

Cultural Activities: (museums, theaters, Red Mill, etc.)

Education: (tutoring, time volunteered to an elementary or middle school for an educational purpose, Sunday school teacher, etc.)

Environment: (parks, reservoirs, recycling, park or highway cleanup, etc.)

Healthcare: (hospitals, treatment centers, rehab centers, etc.)

Physically/Mentally Challenged: (Special Olympics, Easter Seals, Muscular Dystrophy, ARC-Association for Retarded Citizens, group homes, etc.)

Social Services: (American Cancer Society, Relay for Life, blood drives, American Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity, March of Dimes, United Way, soup kitchens, food banks, a church or religious organization, Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, etc.)

Thank you for helping our students and our school reach a worthy goal.

Michael P Hughes
Principal

