



BSD Varsity Letter in Community Service

Bethel School District wants to recognize and reward students for their volunteer efforts in the community. Please be sure to review this document carefully with regard to the requirements for this award.

The application is available at www.bethelsd.org

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ A **Minimum** 2.0 GPA
- ✓ A **Minimum** of 145 total hours of community service hours
- ✓ A **Maximum** 20 hours serving *only* school community outside school hours (not outside community, i.e.: Link Crew, Key Club, ROTC)
- ✓ Hours must be completed through a nonprofit, government agency, school or faith-based organization
- ✓ Hours must be served between **April 1st and the following March 31st**

*Hours in question could be considered at the discretion of the Coordinator and Review Committee.

***APPLICATION MUST
BE RECEIVED BY
APRIL 1
*LATE submissions will not be accepted**

**Submit application to
Catherine DeHut**
Coordinator
cdehut@bethelsd.org
253-720-8556

School Contacts

GKHS Kelly Woyak kwoyak@bethelsd.org 253-683-6120	Bethel Robin Hodges rhodges@bethelsd.org 253-683-7075	SLHS Mindee Graver mgraver@bethelsd.org 253-683-5675	Challenger Jessie Blocker jblocker@bethelsd.org 253-683-6810
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Opportunities for service in Pierce County

www.co.pierce.wa.us/811/Volunteer-Opportunities

- Boards, Committees and Agencies
 - [Boards and Commissions](#)
 - [Current Vacancies](#)
 - [Canine Advisory Panel](#)
 - [Community Planning Boards](#)
 - [Performance Audit Committee](#)
- Domestic Violence
 - [Crystal Judson Family Justice Center](#)
- Human Services
 - [Count homeless people survey \(Jan\)](#)
- Environment
 - [Adopt-A-Road Program](#)
 - [Drain Marker Program](#)
 - [People for Puget Sound](#)
 - [Stream Team](#)
 - [Surface Water Advisory Board](#)
 - [Watershed Councils](#)
- [Juvenile Court](#)
 - Alcoholics Anonymous Representative
 - Chemical Dependency Counselor Aide
 - Community Accountability Board member - CAB
 - Court Appointed Special Advocate - CASA
 - Guardian Ad Litem Case Aide Volunteer
 - Juvenile Detention Officer Intern
 - Narcotics Anonymous Representative
 - Probation Case Aide
- Remann Hall Book Club Volunteer
- [Parks and Recreation](#)
 - [Adopt-A-Park](#)
 - [Adopt-A-Trail](#)
 - [Companionship Program](#)
 - [Pitch In For Parks](#)
 - [Special Events](#)
 - [Youth Recreational Programs](#)
- Senior Assistance
 - [Aging and Long-Term Care](#)
 - [Long-Term Care Ombudsman](#)
- [Sheriff](#)
 - [Cadets](#)
 - [Community Policing VIP](#)
 - [Corrections](#)
 - [Reserve Deputy](#)
 - [Search and Rescue](#)
 - [General Volunteer Opportunities](#)
- [Superior Court](#)
 - Administrative Aide
 - Courthouse Tour Guide
- [WSU Pierce County Extension](#)
 - [4-H Youth Programs](#)
 - Clothing and Textile Advisors
 - [Food Safety Advisors](#)
 - Home and Community Educators
 - Livestock Advisors
 - [Master Gardeners](#)
 - [Square Foot Nutrition Program](#)

Other sources for Volunteer Opportunities

www.nourishpc.org

www.volunteerpiercecounty.org

www.justserve.org

CHURCH-RELATED VOLUNTEER HOURS

CHURCH-RELATED SERVICE GUIDELINES

The following hours **WILL COUNT** toward the Varsity Letter in Community Service requirements:

- Church-related hours serving the community at large (meaning you must serve more than the church congregation)
 - Church hours that will count toward the Varsity Letter must benefit the external community of the church, for example
 - Volunteering with a church-run food bank, clothing bank or congregational meal service
 - Volunteering with church members for an outside non-profit, community-based organization (like running a youth group food drive for Nourish Pierce County Food Banks)
 - Performing volunteer service on a mission trip (like rebuilding a community after a disaster, building a school, digging a well, etc.) that is not solely based on evangelizing / proselytizing
 - Volunteering with a church's Vacation Bible School program that is open to the community at large

The following hours **WILL NOT COUNT** toward the Varsity Letter in Community Service

- Church hours that benefit only the congregation of the church will not count toward the letter, for example
 - Church choir, band or performances
 - Ushering
 - Working in the church nursery during services or classes
 - Volunteering to doorbell, proselytize, run a booth to pass out church info, etc.

SCHOOL-RELATED VOLUNTEER HOURS

Any school-related service activities must be focused on serving the **community at large**, not just the school/student body, to count toward the Varsity Letter in Community Service. Additionally, **only hours served OUTSIDE school hours will count.**

SCHOOL-RELATED SERVICE GUIDELINES

For school-related service, the following highlights what will and will NOT count

- **School-related hours if not serving the community at large (must serve more than your school/student body) WILL NOT count, for example**
 - Volunteering in concession stand for a school sporting event (unless proceeds benefit non-profit)

- Making posters for a school activity (unless benefits non-profit, like March of Dimes Walk)
- Holding a car wash or other fundraiser that benefits a school club or sports team (unless benefits non-profit)
- School club hours do NOT count for general business/meetings
- Performing with your school band/orchestra/choir/pep band/theatre group (see below)
- Hosting students from other schools or international exchange students
- **School-related hours outside the school day and serving community at large WILL count**
 - Volunteering with a school-based club by organizing a school food drive and donating proceeds to a non-profit community based food bank
 - Performing with your school choir/band/theatre group for a senior center, nursing home, daycare, etc. outside school hours and not for school credit
 - While performing sports management duties does not count toward the Varsity Letter, managing or coaching younger teams of students in middle school or elementary school will count
 - Volunteering with a lower level school (middle school or elementary) helping teachers or students with education and enrichment related activities

ADDITIONAL SCHOOL-RELATED GUIDELINES

- School hours must be BEYOND what is required for graduation, a class, credit, or homework

VARSIY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE FAQ

I volunteered on a mission trip through my church, how do I count these hours?

If you volunteer on a mission trip or other volunteer vacation, the hours are calculated as follows: During the school year: 10 hours per day. During the summer: 15 hours per day. If you have documentation proving that you served more than these hours per day, you may submit it with your application and will be credited with these hours if we are able to verify them with your provided contact.

I volunteered as a camp counselor, how do I count those hours?

If you volunteer as a camp counselor, the hours are calculated as follows: During the school year: 10 hours per day. During the summer: 15 hours per day. If you have documentation proving that you served more than these hours per day, you may submit it with your application and will be credited with these hours if we are able to verify them with your provided contact.

Can I count hours from club meetings?

If you participate in a school service club, you may count any hours that are spent organizing and implementing a service project outside school hours. If you are in a club that uses meeting times to discuss other club business, you may not count those hours. Only hours spent planning and participating in a service project will count as community service hours. ALL hours are subject to your supervisor's discretion.

I volunteer as a sports manager with my school's team. Do these hours count?

Typically, you are able to earn a sports management letter if you volunteer with a varsity level team, so these hours do not count. If your time is spent with younger students (i.e., you are in High School helping with Middle School or you are in Middle School helping with Elementary students), or a community sports group, your hours will most likely count. Please email us if you are unsure.

Can I count my time babysitting or helping with yard work or housework?

No, this work would not count unless these activities are performed through a nonprofit organization that runs a program providing this support to low-income individuals/families.

I have to complete community service hours so that I can graduate, can I count these hours towards my Varsity Letter?

Any community service or volunteer hours done to meet a graduation requirement DO NOT count toward your Varsity Letter in Community Service. Volunteer hours that are counted for the Varsity Letter are to be done above and beyond what is required for graduation. If, for example, you are required to complete 20 hours of service as part of your project but you complete 30 hours, then we will only be able to count 10 of your hours toward this distinction.

I have to complete community service hours for a class, can I count these hours?

Any community service or volunteer hours done as a requirement for a class, DO NOT count toward your Varsity Letter in Community Service. Volunteer hours that are counted for the Varsity Letter are to be done above and beyond what is required for a class.

I participated in Nurse Camp. Can I count these hours?

There is a volunteering component to Nurse Camp but you cannot count all of your hours spent at camp. You may only count the actual hours you volunteered while at camp.

I job shadowed. Can I count these hours?

No, hours spent performing a job shadow does not count for this award, even if it is with a non-profit or school organization.

I volunteered with a local company but wasn't paid for my work. Can I count these hours?

Unfortunately, no you cannot. If the company is not a non-profit organization we cannot count these hours. This includes many childcare facilities that are not non-profit organizations. Be sure to check with the organization you are volunteering with ahead of time to ensure they meet the guidelines.

Can my parent be the contact for my verification of hours?

Unless your parent works for the organization you volunteered with, you may not have your parent sign off on hours. You will need to get the contact information for the organization representative who can verify your volunteer work. In cases where your parent does work for the organization, please have someone unrelated to you as your contact.

I volunteered as part of a political campaign, do these hours count?

No, Bethel School District is a nonpartisan organization and cannot count hours spent volunteering as part of a political campaign.

Our family hosted a student from another school or an international exchange student. Can I count any of the hours spent with this student?

While hosting a student is a valuable experience for the host family and the student, hosting a student is not a volunteer activity that benefits the community as a whole, so these hours will not count toward the Varsity Letter in Community Service.