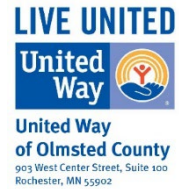


# VARSITY LETTER IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



### 1. The requirements state that I must complete at least 40 hours in a “non-school activity”. What type of volunteer work counts as a non-school activity?

Volunteer work should be completed with a non-profit organization with a 501(c)(3) status. Listed on page 4 are just a few ideas; there are many ways to volunteer in your community. If you have further questions or need ideas, please visit Get Connected at: <http://volunteer.uwolmsted.org/>

If you're uncertain about whether volunteer work you're doing could be counted towards the Varsity Letter in Community Service, please email [sonjas@uwolmsted.org](mailto:sonjas@uwolmsted.org) or call 507-535-5509 to verify before you start.

### 2. The requirements state that I have to complete at least one “school activity”. What types of volunteer work count as a school activity, and how many hours do I need?

The following is a list of activities that can be done in school. These are just a few ideas, not a complete list. Again, if you are uncertain if an activity counts, please email [sonjas@uwolmsted.org](mailto:sonjas@uwolmsted.org) or call 507-535-5509 to verify before you start.

- *Participating in a community service project through a school club (National Honor Society, Key Club, etc.)*
- *Assisting a teacher before, during, or after school, or during the summer*
- *Assisting at sporting events, concerts, theater productions (if not required for a class)*
- *Tutoring peers through a school tutoring program (If tutoring hours are performed, please list the school volunteer supervisor as the contact, not the tutee or the tutee's parent/guardian).*

There is NO hour requirement for school-related activities. Sometimes, work done through a school group can be counted as school related OR non-school related work. For example, if the work was done with an outside organization (e.g. Participating in Relay for Life as a Key Club member), you may count the hours where you need them.

### 3. Who should I list as my supervisor?

Your advisor is the adult supervisor, mentor, or advisor that has supervised your volunteer work and can verify that you volunteered with their group or organization. You MAY NOT list a student or peer as your contact supervisor.

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

The Varsity Letter in Community Service program targets volunteering locally in or near Olmsted County. If you volunteer on a mission trip or other volunteer vacation, the hours are calculated as follows:

During the school year: no more than 10 hours per day  
During the summer: no more than 10 hours per day  
No more than 40 hours total outside Olmsted County.

### 5. I volunteered as a camp counselor; how do I count those hours?

The Varsity Letter in Community Service program targets volunteering locally in or near Olmsted County. If you volunteer as a camp counselor, the hours are calculated as follows:

During the school year: no more than 10 hours per day  
During the summer: no more than 10 hours per day  
No more than 40 hours total outside Olmsted County.

### 6. I have to complete community service hours so that I can graduate. Can I count these hours?

Any community service or volunteer hours done to meet a graduation requirement DO NOT count.

**7. I must complete community service hours for a class. Can I count these hours?**

Any community service or volunteer hours done as a class requirement DO NOT count.

**8. Can I count my time helping with yard work or housework?**

Any yard work or house work performed with a non-profit (such as Family Service Rochester's Neighbors Helping Neighbors program) CAN be counted for this award. In cases where you are assisting an individual on your own (not related to you or living in the same household) please photograph the experience and include Amy Wilfahrt, Advocacy & Engagement Coordinator at United Way of Olmsted County, as your Volunteer Supervisor for that verification form.

**9. 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 nonprofit organization, we cannot count these hours. This includes many childcare facilities that are for-profit organizations. Be sure to check with the organization you are volunteering with ahead of time to ensure they meet the guidelines.

**10. Who do I contact for more information?**

Sonja Sommerfeldt, Impact Program Coordinator at United Way of Olmsted County

Email: [sonjas@uwolmsted.org](mailto:sonjas@uwolmsted.org) Phone: 507-535-5509

**HELPFUL HINTS**

- Remember to track your volunteer hours as you perform them.
- Use the optional checklist provided in your application to ensure your application is complete.
- Remember that United Way of Olmsted County must receive your application by March 1, 2025.
- For volunteer work spent with one group or organization, you only need to complete one verification form summarizing all of your volunteer work for the timeframe.
- Reach out to us if you have questions or need additional resources.