



# MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY™

## MAROON VOLUNTEER CENTER

### What is a Volunteer/Community Service Hour?

1. Community service refers to projects that members of certain organizations perform to benefit an agency/members of the community.
2. Self-initiated volunteer work independent of Mississippi State University but conducted while a current student and organized through the Maroon Volunteer Center is considered community service/volunteer work.
3. Time spent on activities that benefit a wider population can be counted as community service hours.
4. Time spent on activities that only benefit the membership of an organization **cannot** be counted as community service hours
5. Working within a religious entity (church, synagogue, etc.) will **not** satisfy the community service requirement **unless** you are doing some type of outreach within the community.
6. As with community service, students **cannot** receive compensation for service hours.
7. Job shadowing is **not** considered volunteer work/community service.
8. Projects sponsored by student clubs/organizations that provide a service to the local community are considered community service/volunteer work.
9. Political campaigning is **not** considered volunteer work/community service.
10. Time spent traveling to and from the service location **cannot** be counted as service hours.

\*\* We recognize that there may be situations where it is difficult to determine whether or not an activity meets the requirements to be classified as service, and we encourage students to email [volunteer@saffairs.msstate.edu](mailto:volunteer@saffairs.msstate.edu) with any questions or concerns. \*\*

- Community Service: A Definition, Trinity Valley School, 2019, [www.trinityvalleyschool.org/uploaded/community\\_service/brochure\\_and\\_contract.pdf](http://www.trinityvalleyschool.org/uploaded/community_service/brochure_and_contract.pdf).
- "Definition of Approved Service for Hour Tracking." Department of Community Service, Brandeis University, 2019, [www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/communityservice/awardandtrackinghours/DefinitionofApprovedService.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/communityservice/awardandtrackinghours/DefinitionofApprovedService.html).
- "What Counts as Service Hours." Student Volunteer Center, Oklahoma State University, 2019, [lcl.okstate.edu/volunteer/what-counts-service-hours.html](http://lcl.okstate.edu/volunteer/what-counts-service-hours.html).