

Service Learning Graduation Requirement

Student Service. Students shall complete one of the following:

- (1) Forty hours of student service that includes preparation, action, and reflection components and that, at the discretion of the school system, may begin during the middle grades; -design (2) a program in student service that has been approved by the building Principal or District Administrator.*

Why is service-learning a Barneveld School District graduation requirement?

There are many wonderful things about service-learning! Service-learning allows students to participate in service projects that are meaningful and educational and can often answer the question, 'Why are we learning this?' These projects are helpful to the community, display Barneveld students in a positive light, and facilitate relationships among our students and the world around them. They will be contributing members of our society! In addition, many future employers will appreciate the skills that Barneveld students will learn while creating, planning, and successfully implementing projects throughout the community.

How many hours of service-learning are required for Barneveld High School students?

Students at BHS must participate in 40 hours of service over their four years.

What about transferring students? Do they need 40 hours of service?

Students who transfer to BHS will have a 'pro-rated' amount of service-learning hours to complete. For example, a student who transfers to BHS as a sophomore would need 30 hours of service-learning by graduation instead of 40.

What 'counts' as service-learning?

Service learning is an experience where the student is involved in hands-on learning and is simultaneously affecting real change in the community. Projects will be pre-approved if they have each of the following components:

***Connected to the curriculum:** When writing a pre-approval, be specific about what exactly you will be learning throughout the course of the project and which BHS courses relate to the project. Think about how you can enhance learning throughout the course of your project.

***Meaningful service:** Meaningful implies that a true community need is being met and that the project is truly important to the student; service implies that the community will experience benefit as a result of the project and that the project is a volunteer (unpaid) activity for a community member or organization.

***Student involvement:** Students must be the planners, organizers, and brains behind the project! Many future employers will appreciate an employee who can organize, plan, and execute a project. Count this as practice! In addition, a **meaningful reflection** is essential! Think about how this project positively effect you, the community, and the people around you. What did you learn? How will this help your schooling or career interests?

Can religious hours or mission trips 'count' towards service-learning hours?

It depends on the situation! Hours spent spreading religious ideas cannot be sanctioned as a school project. However, many trips include non-profit community improvement work (not related to religion) which may relate to BHS classes. Remember, the service part is just half of the service-learning project; students must be *learning* about subjects that relate to BHS coursework as well.

Silver Cord Service Award

Barneveld High School, as part of its mission to strive towards excellence, has implemented Service Learning as a graduation requirement. All students must log a minimum of 40 hours over their four years of high school.

Many students will log many more than the required 40 hours. To encourage and reward outstanding volunteerism and community service, the **Silver Cord Service Award** will recognize students who have made contributions above and beyond the basic requirements to their community through service.

Seniors who have completed 140 hours of volunteer service during their high school career will be awarded the SILVER CORD and recognized at graduation. **It is required that students complete (and turn into the office) at least 70 accumulated hours prior to September 1 of their senior year to reach the total 140 hours.** Students should accumulate the total 140 hours throughout their four years of high school.

Students may begin accumulating hours following graduation of the 8th grade. Forms are available in the office and school website. Forms may be turned in at any time throughout the school year. All forms should be turned in May 1st of each school year. Seniors must have all forms in by May 1st for consideration of graduation with Silver Cord honor.

Students working toward their silver cord should refer to the list of approved volunteer activities. If you are not sure if your activity meets the requirements, please ask the Principal. Verification forms must be complete for each activity for which a student volunteers.

Students must use the Official Verification Form. Students may keep their own log for repeated volunteer work, but should transfer hours and get verification on the Official Form. School Forms are the most up to date; please do not turn in logs or unofficial forms.

Silver Cord Service Program Requirements & Ideas For Service

Volunteer activities must meet the following requirements to earn the honor of wearing a silver cord during graduation:

- All activities must be completed outside of school hours
- You must perform a service for someone other than family members.
- Activities should be in addition to your participation in clubs. Activities such as Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, 4H, etc. (organizations that require service hours) may not also be used for Silver Cord.
- 70 hours must be completed before September 1 of Senior Year
- 140 total hours must be spread over 2-4 years of high school

Activities that will not be approved:

- If you receive compensation of money or other recognition
- Chores at home/farm and babysitting
- Court ordered community service
- May not be minor acts of kindness (holding a door open, etc.)
- May not include working for a profit organization for free
- May not include working for a political party or campaign
- You may not include any hours from a Church service (serving, singing, playing music), preparing/cleaning related to a church service, church programs such as confirmation or church committees. However, if you volunteer through your church and perform service that is NOT expected to complete a particular program, this would count (i.e mission trip). You may not be receiving any other credit for the activity.

IN SUMMARY:

You may not receive any other credit, award or recognition for volunteer hours used to fulfill the Silver Cord criteria. If you are unsure, please see the Principal for approval.

The following are ideas to fulfill hours of service:

- Clean up a park (pulling invasive weeds, completing a project)
- Volunteer at a food pantry
- Volunteer for the clothes closet
- Being a homework tutor after school or in the summer
- Volunteer for Iron Man, Fair Week, County Fair, etc.
- Volunteer at a Humane Shelter or Kennel
- Volunteer teach Sunday school or summer Bible class
- Volunteer at a nursing home or hospice
- Volunteer through church to help the homeless or less fortunate
- Volunteer at a Library (shelving, reading to little kids, teaching, etc...)
- Assist a teacher in the summer getting prepared for the school year (bulletin boards, organization, etc...)
- Volunteer for the Red Cross (not school sponsored blood drive)
- Volunteer for the Recreation Department (coach, supervise)
- Volunteer for Little League (coach, referee)
- Volunteer work the for the Madison Youth Choir (build sets, set up and take down concerts)
- Volunteer work for NON-PROFIT organizations (Historical Society, Salvation Army, Red Cross, Performing Arts Center, Fair Wisconsin, etc...)
- Volunteer at summer camps (must not get free room and board in lieu of getting paid)
- Volunteer for a Chamber of Commerce
- Volunteer for a municipality (court, police, village, etc...)
- Volunteer for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts or 4H (NOT as a member of the organization)

**If you have an idea and it is not listed, please check with the Principal for approval.*