



What Do You Need to Graduate? Christian Community Service Requirements

The following information is adapted from the Ontario Ministry of Education's policy regarding the Ontario Secondary School Diploma 40 hour community service requirement for graduation. For more information or to view the full policy, please visit the [Ministry of Education website](#).

The purpose of the Christian Community Service Requirement is to encourage students to develop awareness and understanding of civic responsibility and of the role they can play and the contributions they can make in supporting and strengthening their communities.

Secondary school students in Ontario must complete 40 hours of community involvement.

- ❖ Students will receive a Christian Community Service Booklet from Guidance in the fall of Grade 9 that must be completed in full in order to be accepted for the OSSD. Students must ensure they fill out required paperwork both before and after volunteering, and that signatures are received from their parents, and their supervisor at the volunteer activity.
- ❖ Students may do as many different volunteer activities as they'd like as long as the total number of hours adds up to 40 and a signed sheet has been received for all activities.
- ❖ This may be completed at any time during their schooling and students may begin accumulating hours in the summer between their Grade 8 and Grade 9 year. If students collect hours the summer before Grade 9 then they are encouraged to have a letter signed and dated by a supervisor indicating dates of volunteering, nature of the work and the number of hours.
- ❖ Once students have completed their Christian Community Service Requirements, they should submit their booklet to their St. Mary Guidance Counsellor. This can be submitted any time after they have completed a minimum of 40 hours.
- ❖ ***Grade 12's should aim to complete and submit their Christian Community Service Requirements by the end of March to ensure processing for the June Graduation Ceremony.***

An activity WILL NOT be counted towards the mandatory 40 hours of community service if it:

- ❖ is a requirement of a class (e.g. co-op, job shadowing, work experience)
- ❖ takes place during class time
- ❖ would normally be a paid position
- ❖ consists of duties normally performed in the home (i.e. daily chores) or personal recreational activities (i.e. extra-curricular activities)
- ❖ is an activity to satisfy the requirements of a court-ordered program (e.g. community-service program for young offenders, probationary program).

Volunteer activities completed over a student's lunch or spare period WILL count towards the 40 hour requirement.

For Community Service opportunities, please see the binder outside of the Guidance Office.

Remember to always check with your Guidance Counselor or Principal before beginning a volunteer activity. St. Mary may have deemed some activities ineligible for volunteer hours, so check with them first to ensure that your proposed activities will count.