Chesapeake Bay Governor's School
Community Service Guidelines

Students attending the Chesapeake Bay Governor's School for Marine and Environmental Science are encouraged to pursue community service opportunities. Students who do so can earn a gold cord for CBGS Community Service during our Senior Recognition Ceremony, which they can also wear at their high school graduations.

The following guidelines must be met to earn this cord:

- An environmental service activity is one that improves or restores one's physical surroundings. Hours for educational/instructional activities that enhance a communities' environmental awareness and understanding will also be considered environmental. General community service hours (non-environmental) are awarded for activities that better the community at large and not an individual.
- Students must complete a total of 120 hours of community service while a student at CBGS.
- A minimum of 50% of the hours must be in the area of Environmental Service.
- All hours must be documented and signed by the project supervisor. Forms must be completed by the student and supervisor and turned in to the CBGS campus Community Service coordinator. Forms may be found on the CBGS web site.
- Students may claim CBGS Community Service hours for activities completed for home school service organizations (BETA, NHS, Key Club). (We call this "double dipping" and have no issues with it.)
- Community service hours may only be earned for services that are above and beyond class requirements.
- Students are eligible to begin earning hours the summer prior to their sophomore year.
- Time in transit to perform community service does not count towards completed hours.
- All community service hours must be submitted by **April 15** for Senior Night.

Qualifying Community Service Activities:

In general, hours will be awarded for services that benefit the community and public at large. There should be a distinction made between being a good neighbor and community service. In other words, simply volunteering (not being compensated financially for an activity) does not automatically qualify the activity for community service hours.

For example, cleaning out your elderly neighbor's attic or collecting their mail is being a good neighbor, but would not qualify as community service. Additionally, volunteering for a local for-profit business would not count towards community service.

In general, public activities performed for local service organizations (Kiwanis, Ruritan Club, Rotary Club, Lion's Club, …) or local emergency services (EMS, firefighter, …) will count as community service hours.

Listed below are some examples of activities, with notes, however, this list is not exhaustive. To be certain that your hours will count as needed, please contact the Community Service Coordinator or your M&E teacher (in the case of environmental service) at your campus prior to completing the hours.

Working at a food pantry.	Yes, this is community service. If, however, you worked in the food pantry collapsing cardboard boxes for recycling, this is also environmental community service.
Teaching science to children.	This will be environmental hours. However, "teaching children" or tutoring would not be environmental. Working at VIMS Marine Science Day is environmental, as is Earth Day at Belle Isle State Park.
Tutoring	If a parent has contacted you to tutor their child, this would not count as community service. However, if you have volunteered at the local library to help staff the tutoring center, this would count as community service.
Religious activities	Activities that are related to serving as part of religious activities will count as community service. Examples include serving in a church nursery, playing an instrument, working at a Vacation Bible School.
Private to Semi-Private Functions	Volunteering does not necessarily mean you have performed community service. If I help to set up for a dinner for the local alumni organization for William and Mary, I may have volunteered, but this does not count as community service.
Water quality sampling	Absolutely yes! And environmental hours as well.
Local Clubs/Organizations	Trash pick up, cleaning up local parks, etc. for environmental hours. Local clubs and organizations also have non-environmental community service opportunities (Something of this nature)