

# Civics Service Learning FAQs

## **What's Service Learning?**

Service learning is an effective way for youth to develop the drive and desire to become lifelong volunteers and engaged citizens. Students can participate in activities through outside organizations like [Volunteer Fairfax](#) as well as at Rachel Carson Middle School. Service learning at Rachel Carson aligns with the FCPS Portrait of a Graduate that supports the development of responsibility to the local and global community.

## **When & where can it occur?**

8 hours of service learning in the community must take place outside of instructional hours such as: during Panther Time, after school, and/or outside of school. Students can earn service hours from the day they choose their theme in civics class until the due date of May 1, 2024.

## **How do I get credit for my service?**

8 hours of service completed in the community needs to be recorded in x2VOL, available through Naviance in Schoology. You must collect the email address of the adult for whom you are performing service. If you cannot get the adult's email please type in the email address of your parent/ guardian to verify you have completed the service opportunity. Enter their email address into x2VOL within a week of performing the service so that your service can be verified in a timely manner.

## **What counts?**

Acceptable examples of Service Learning:

- ★ Helping at a food bank
- ★ Helping a teacher in their classroom
- ★ Helping a school set-up and/or run an event
- ★ Picking up trash in a community
- ★ Coaching or mentoring kids
- ★ Participating in a service-oriented club (Going Green)
- ★ Baking for a cause
- ★ Helping a religious organization
- ★ Helping a political organization
- ★ Scouting service projects
- ★ Advocacy

Unacceptable examples of Service Learning:

- ★ Grading papers for a teacher
- ★ Bringing in school supplies like tissues, candy, or magazines
- ★ Founding, attending, or participating in a non-service orientated club
- ★ Doing a favor for a family member, neighbor, individual, or friend
- ★ Performing chores or housework
- ★ Helping a for-profit organization

**To receive credit, all service must involve work by the student and provide a benefit to the community. Credit will not be given for mere attendance at an event, or for a project or activity that benefits only the student, his or her relatives, friends, or neighbors. Additionally, you cannot benefit from the service in any way financially or academically. Remember that hours completed for National Junior Honor Society cannot also be used to count towards your service hours for Civics.**

**When in doubt, ask your current Social Studies teacher!**