

Community Service at Guajome Park Academy for the 2008-2009 School Year

Guajome Park Academy participates in both the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program and the IB Middle Years Program (IBMYP). One of the cornerstones (Areas of Interaction) of the IB Program is Community Service. Below is the IB description of community service:

Community service helps you to develop a personal value system through which to guide your life, as a thoughtful member of a local community and the larger world. Community service is the development of responsible citizenship through knowledge and understanding of the world. This Area of Interaction is about action and reflection inside and outside the classroom.

Students are encouraged to ask themselves, “How can I make a difference?”

Community Service **aims** to develop:

- an awareness of the needs of the community and society in general
- an awareness of the role of the individual within a community
- a willingness to respond to the needs of others
- an altruistic attitude, thereby enriching the life of the student through enhanced insight into the variety and complexity of a society

Three **concepts** will guide you in your community service:

- Awareness
- Involvement
- Reflection

To gain **awareness**, ask yourself these questions:

- What does community mean?
- What makes a community?
- How are communities similar? How are they different?
- What role(s) do I play in the community?
- How can I make a difference?

By asking yourself these questions and taking into account your strengths, likes, dislikes and goals you will start to move toward involvement.

Students should continually ask themselves, “ How can I help to make the world a better place?”

(For more information about the IB and IBMYP program, you can visit www.ibo.org/myip/curriculum/interaction/)

GPA’s Community Service Commitment

Each student at GPA has a community service commitment of 30 hours per year. Each GPA family also has an additional commitment of 30 hours per year.

Community service is defined as volunteering to help out those in our community. Community service will only be counted if the student/family is directly helping out those in the community. Helping out those in your immediate family will not be counted for GPA’s community service commitment. Accepting pay for services will also not count toward the community service commitment.

Below are some suggestions for types of community service activities that students and families are encouraged to participate in to fulfill their community service commitment.

Ideas for students: (not limited to these ideas)

- Volunteering at school
- Campus clean-ups
- Park clean-ups
- Nursing Home visits
- Volunteering at soup kitchens
- Knitting for premature babies and geriatrics
- Score keeping for youth sports
- Participate in ‘Vistans ROC’ (Revitalize our Community) (for more information, visit www.ci.vista.ca.us/community/vistansroc2005.htm)

- Participate in 'ILACSD' (I Love a Clean San Diego) (for more information, visit www.ilacsd.org/)
- Babysitting (for no pay ☺)
- Animal-sitting
- Yard work for neighbors
- Home building projects
- Etc.

Ideas for house: Each house will also help students toward reaching their 30 hour community service commitment. Types of projects houses may choose to participate in include:

- Beach clean-up
- Guajome Park clean-up
- Adobe clean-up
- AGSEM clean-up/prep for events
- Elementary School visits/reading buddies
- Adobe Christmas Tree decoration
- Community gardens in the AGSEM
- Campus recycling (through advisory)
- Lunch clean-up (through 4th Block)
- Etc.

Ideas for families:

- Volunteering at school
- Driving on field works (will earn double community service hours)
- Attending monthly meetings (House Council, School Council, Friends of Frogs (FOF), School Board, Instructional Team, etc.)
- Serving as House parent or Advisory parent
- Campus clean-up in conjunction
- Donating supplies (Families can also fulfill their community service by donating supplies, etc. to the house or school; donations worth \$10 = 1 hour of community service)
- Etc.

Each student is responsible for having their community service hours signed by an adult who can verify their hours of service. The student should then bring their hours to their advisory teacher who will verify and help keep track of their hours and contribute to their advisory grade.

Parents can get community service verification forms for their 30 hours of community service from the front desk and should also turn in completed community service forms to the front desk. There is a box designated to receive these hours. Please see your house leader if you have questions about community service.