Obtaining the Presidential Volunteer Service Award w/ Project LEAD

About the Award

- The President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) acknowledges students who volunteer their time to community service and **do not benefit personally or financially**. The purpose is to **renew your commitment to help others** and to make new connections that bring us closer together as neighbors, communities, and as a nation.

- **Age Group**:

	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Teens (11-15)	50-74	75-99	100+
Young Adult (16-25)	100-174	175-249	250+

  *Note: Figure out which category you'd be under by calculating which age you are in the **majority of the time period (June 1-May 31).**

- **Registration**: PVSA is an additional $5 to Project LEAD dues (you must be a Project LEAD member to apply for PVSA)
    - *__2020 UPDATE:__* Stay updated on Schoology regarding dues! For right now, just check off the box if you're interested in PVSA when registering for your page.*

Counting Hours

- **Project LEAD Hours:** All Project LEAD hours (on our Schoology group, Innerview, or given during the meetings) count as Project LEAD (membership) and PVSA Hours.

- **Qualifying Hours** (find examples on page 3-5)
    - *Volunteering* is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause *without compensation* for their time and services. (**Does your activity qualify as volunteering**?)

    - Be **logical and uphold the values of integrity** as a volunteer. Only the **actual amount of hours you volunteer counts**; changing the amount of hours, especially an unreasonable amount, is not permitted. Events not considered community service will be disregarded, so use your best judgement!

        - **READ TO THE END**!! THE LIST OF QUALIFYING AND NON QUALIFYING HOURS IS A MUST READ.

Verification Procedure: InnerView & Turning In Forms

- After volunteering at the event, get a point slip signed from a supervisor at your event. Slips can be found on the Project LEAD website.

  - The slip should include the **full event title** (do not just write Library, but what you did, such as Troy Public Library Flyer Pass Out).

  - Fill out all the information on the slip. This info should correlate with the ones on Innerview.

  - For multi-day activities, have a signed point slip for **each day** of the activity. You must list all dates and hours per date separately.

- Then, input your service hours to Innerview. You must have a _**picture**_ of you volunteering there, a description, and full supervisor information! Information left blank may cause your hours & activity to be denied on Innerview so be sure to complete ALL the blanks given!

  - Watch the Innerview Instruction video on thsprojectlead.com/loggingpoints.html for more information on creating a Project LEAD account and uploading on Innerview (innerview.org)

    - Writing PVSA on activities that are outside of Project LEAD in your activity description would be helpful!

    - Note: Innerview is **not an app.** To use Innerview on your phone, you must use a phone browser like Safari (go on my.innerview.org)

  - Innerview is a super helpful way of keeping track of your own hours and earning a _numerous amount of awards_ in the program itself. It's a great way to showcase all the types of service you did as well.

- Turn in your point slip at school to room 129. Points will still be updated on the Weebly webpage. You should have already registered for a webpage on the Project LEAD website.

  - ==_2020 UPDATE_==**:** turn in your PVSA points (outside of Project LEAD) here: www.tinyurl.com/pointspvsa

    - Project LEAD points are turned in here (tinyurl.com/pointsprojectlead), but these automatically transfer to PVSA. For example, an event volunteered with Project LEAD and submitted in the Project LEAD form automatically goes into PVSA (returning members: think the 2 boxes).

Qualifying Hours

IF YOU ARE UNSURE, PLEASE ASK FIRST TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT LATER!

Community Service is…
There is such a wide range of activities that it is difficult to produce an exhaustive list, but in general, for activities to qualify as community service they should:
- Be for the benefit of others
- Give service to an area in need
- Be performed outside of school hours
- Not involve payment

By definition, volunteer community service refers to activities undertaken for the benefit of others for no direct or indirect financial reward or class grade.

The following information are only <u>some</u> examples. Please use your best judgement and integrity in figuring out if your activity is truly community service and will be taken as PVSA hours.

General Non-Qualifying hours (more info in table)

- Time spent traveling, sleeping, eating, socializing, etc. do not count
- School spirit-related activities (decorating, helping with homecoming events, etc.)
- Political volunteer work
- Religious activities that take place during a normal worship service
- Giving donations
- Hosting a foreign exchange student or family
- Team-building activities
- Helping family members, friends, neighbors, etc.
- Volunteer service(s) hours above 9 hours per day
- Any activity where the student is paid
- Any activity required for a grade in class
- Volunteering over an extended period, such as mission trips, jobs, internships, apprenticeships (probably can get PVSA w/ the organization you worked with here)

Keep reading for more descriptions and notes for 2020! ↓

Counts	Does Not Count
PERFORMANCES Performances for nursing homes, hospitals or charitable organizations not required by an organization, class, or club.	Practice time to prepare and rehearse does not count. Performing in competition/shows do not count.
TUTORING/MENTORING Volunteering as a peer mentor/tutor or as supervised by the teacher at the extracurricular activity. Must have NO incentive (money, grades, extra credit).	Helping a classmate with homework. Tutoring a sibling; family obligations/chores do not count. Time to prepare a lesson does not count.
SPORTS Refereeing or coaching, training/setup, time keeping, working concessions for counts, as long as there is **NO COMPENSATION** Helping a coach set up during non-school time counts if the activity is *not required*	Practicing, playing, and fundraising for a sport does not count Any activities *required* for players (such as Varsity players helping at JV games) does not count
WALKATHONS Must be a fundraising event, attending as either a runner/walker OR as a volunteer to help out at the event. Please use **integrity** when reporting time spent participating as a runner/walker.	Participating as a contestant or spectator Time eating, socializing, traveling, sleeping, etc. do not count. *Project LEAD provides various walkathon events, and this will help avoid conflicts regarding this category. Contact us with a walkathon opportunity you might have!
COMMUNITY & CLUBS Volunteering with youth groups for community projects (Habitat for Humanity, Meals on Wheels, etc.) or participating in service activities through a club. *If your club gives out a multitude of hours, try seeking out if that organization can provide PVSA awards.*	Being part of a club at school or as a member of a youth group/religious school. Meetings do not count (Project LEAD meetings are a ½ point for attending for the point quota, NOT hours or PVSA!) Helping a candidate campaign, having paid work, internships, job shadowing, etc.

Volunteering at any non-profit charitable organizations or event counts Volunteering at either the school library or town library count.	<mark>(**2020 UPDATE**: Recently there has been an influx of organizations as seen on Instagram.</mark> *Any **service** events from these types of organizations may be counted, but joining or directing meetings, planning, communicating, simply being part of the team, etc. do not count. Check for verification if needed! If your organization claims to provide hours by being on the team, ask the group's leader if you can do PVSA within that group.)*
PLACES OF WORSHIP Volunteer & charity work at places of worship. Volunteering in Vacation Bible School, summer camps, Sunday School, or tutoring children may count. Helping plant a garden, hand out programs outside of a building, or babysitting while parents attend the service counts	Any activity within a worship service does not count. Participation in religious rituals does NOT count (examples: serving as an altar server, preparing or giving sermons, assisting clergy with religious rituals or services, lighting candles in synagogue, performing during a religious service, etc.) Preaching and proselytizing (persuading people to join a religion, cause, or group) do not count. Giving up your room/bed to host a missionary or other worker does not count.

Conclusion

Our hope is to clear up the definition of verified PVSA, community service, awards, as we have seen many drastic or unclear events. We are not trying to discourage types of volunteering and acts of kindness! We hope that you, as volunteers, uphold integrity to stay truthful to the true amount you volunteered and that the event is actually helping the community. **Volunteering isn't about the hours, but rather the impact you make upon your community.**

Last updated: 9/2/2020