



## COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT

**As part of the TJC Promise, students are required to complete community service hours each year they are enrolled in the Promise Program during high school.**

### **Why is community service important?**

Community service has a number of important benefits. Engaging in community service provides students with the opportunity to become active members of their community and has a lasting, positive impact on society at large. Community service or volunteerism enables students to acquire life skills and knowledge, as well as provide a service to those who need it most. Volunteering increases overall life satisfaction, increases social awareness and responsibility. Volunteering helps students enhance their personal knowledge, grow from new experiences, and develop better interpersonal communication skills.

### **How is community service defined for the TJC Promise?**

Community service is defined as participation in the community outside of school. Service hours are on a volunteer basis and do not include activities where the student is a participant (community sports leagues) or where he or she receives any type of compensation. This includes monetary compensation, service hours performed to earn extra credit for a class grade or to earn a reward such as a trip, prize or other non-monetary gift. The only exception is any service activity associated with the Boy/Girl Scouts or similar organizations whereby the student is recognized with a badge or similar type of award or recognition.

- The following are examples of eligible community service:
  - > Volunteering at a soup kitchen.
  - > Helping build a house with Habitat for Humanity.
  
- The following are NOT examples of community service:
  - > Cleaning out your neighbors' garage.
  - > Playing baseball in a community league.

### **How many hours of service am I required to complete each year?**

- Five (5) service hours or more during sophomore year of high school.
- Ten (10) service hours or more during junior and senior year of high school.

### **How do I document my community service hours?**

Beginning with the fall semester of your sophomore year, you will need to document your community service hours on the Community Service Verification Form provided with this document. Forms must be submitted to the designated person at your high school no later than April 30 of each year. Should April 30 fall on a weekend or holiday, the form will be due the next official school day. Please check with your respective high school for any other specific deadlines enforced by your school. A new form should be submitted for each year. Hours earned after April 30 will count toward the following academic year.

