

The Difference Between “Service Hours For School” & “Volunteering For The Community”

By Jay Muthukamatchi & Community

We asked our community, **“What is the difference between “service hours for school” and “volunteering for the community”?**

The community replied:

"Can be the same depending on where your heart is." - Deb

"Motivation. However, they can coincide." - Paul

"Volunteering for the community is the purity of giving back. Service hours means expecting something in return." - Jothsna

"The intention behind it is what either makes the former the focus or a natural byproduct."
- Kala

"School requirements versus a want to help." - Jess

"Schools/colleges sincerely try to involve youth in volunteering and giving back to the community. But a few involve only for securing some hours." - Praveena

"Volunteering for the community is about our impact on people's lives. Service hours for schools are an opportunity for the students to participate outside of the classroom to build a great volunteer in them. Both bring tons of benefits to everyone." - Durai

"Some do service simply to fill a requirement; others choose to help where they see the need. Service hours at school can be fulfilled within the school and can include working in an organization at school that MAY do work outside. Outside volunteering may not count toward the requirement, so it would be done primarily as an independent good." - Sunita

"I not only get students who come to check off the box but parents for the same. Some try to buy you out by donating from BJ's and saying they “did a donation drive”. The list goes on and on." - Shefali



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The community service hours required for NJHS, NHS, school, etc., are meant to allow the student to get to know the world outside of the school. An opportunity to get to know the community, the challenges faced by fellow citizens, the world, etc.

It provides an opportunity to build people skills. An opportunity for the student to become a better person, citizen, and leader.

Most students volunteer to check the box. They are not benefiting from such wonderful Community Service program. I volunteer with many students. I often observed that the students who came to check the box were the least productive volunteers. The students who are passionate about helping others are distinctly self-starters. They do whatever it takes to get it done. They are problem solvers. They are true leaders; they see the way, walk the way, and show the way. They have the "heart."; when you are around them, you feel it. – Jay

“Educating the mind
without educating the
heart is no education at
all.”

— Aristotle
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