

Christian Service

- **Philosophy**

The **goal** of the Christian Service program at St. Patrick St. Vincent High School is to develop and foster in our youth a genuine desire to help others and become actively involved in building the Body of Christ. A call to service is a basic call from Jesus to all Christians; thus service is a part of our curriculum and lifelong education.

- **Model**

The SPSV Christian Service program is a **project centered** model rather than an “hours” model. The aim of such a model is to expose students to different forms of ministry through service to others, giving the student an opportunity to find an area and need suited to their gifts. The length of each project is dependent upon the type and complexity of that particular project. Many students serve beyond the minimum requirements to complete their service project. Each student is then required to submit the appropriate paperwork validating their work as well as provide some written reflection. The reflection process is vital to integrating this new experience in one’s world perspective and achieving a higher level of understanding and moral awareness.

- **Program Overview**

The program is designed to incorporate the two methodologies of action and reflection and is based on the developmental needs and abilities of the student.

1. **Freshmen:** A two-week in-service focusing on one’s giftedness and the Christian call to use those gifts in service of others. It is conducted during religion classes in the Fall. Students are then given options for group and individual projects in our community. They are required to complete **two days** of service. A Verification Form and a written reflection are due after service is completed. Oral reflection is conducted in religion classes.
2. **Sophomores:** Students complete a minimum of **four days** of service at the same site. A Proposal Form is due in early October. A Verification Form and a written reflection are due in April and an oral reflection is conducted in May.
3. **Juniors:** Self-initiated group or independent work at one service site (**8 visit minimum**). Students complete a Proposal Form in the Fall. Projects must be approved before service commences. A Verification Form and written reflection are due in April, and an oral reflection is conducted in May.
4. **Seniors:** Self-initiated group or independent work at one service site (**8 visit minimum**). Students complete a Proposal Form in the Fall. Projects must be approved before service commences. A Verification Form and a written reflection are due at the end of the third quarter. A Reflection Experience is conducted in the Spring.
5. **Summer Option:** Students entering Sophomore, Junior or Senior year, may complete their service requirement during the summer. Summer forms are available online and in the main office, June-August. **Verification of summer service is due on the first day of classes in August.**

6. ***Beyond the Call of Duty***: Students who complete additional service beyond what is required, should complete this form and deposit it in the Christian Service box located in religion classrooms. All forms go into students' individual Christian Service folders that are returned to students at the end of Senior year. Letters of appreciation are also kept in these files.
- **Basic Requirements for Approval of Service Projects**
 1. Non-profit program (If you're not sure, ask).*
 2. Includes adult supervision
 3. Students are not compensated (no \$, or credit on transcript)
 4. Minimum number of visits are made to the same place
 - **Incomplete Christian Service Requirement**
 1. Freshmen must complete and submit Preference Forms to the Christian Service box in religion classrooms by the end of the first quarter or an "I" will be given in Religion on their report cards. The grade will be changed when the form is submitted.
 2. Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors must submit Proposal Forms online by a due date in October, or an "I" will be given in Religion on their report cards. The grade will be changed when the form, completed appropriately, is submitted.
 3. Seniors who do not complete service and submit a Verification Form by the end of the third quarter, will receive an "I" in Religion on their third quarter report cards as well as serve a 1-3 hour detention. Grades will be changed when service is complete and the form is submitted in religion class or to Campus Ministry. Seniors who do not complete this requirement will not participate in the graduation day ceremony nor receive a diploma. A diploma will be granted upon completion of the requirement.
 4. Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors who do not complete service and submit a Verification Form by the due date, will receive an "I" in Religion on their fourth quarter report card. Students will also serve a 1-3 hour detention. Christian Service **must** be completed during the Summer. Students may be required to complete additional service at SPSV, as well. Grades will be changed when service is completed and forms are submitted to Campus Ministry..

Christian Service Coordinator: Ms. Francie McInerney MacMillan

Email: f.macmillan@spsv.org Phone: 707-644-4425 ex 447

*Juniors and Seniors who serve in their parishes/churches must serve in a leadership capacity. Altar serving, lecturing, music ministry, serving communion, participation in youth group activities are wonderful ministries, but do not fulfill the service requirement for upper classmen. Serving as a youth group leader or as a catechist (teaching religion) do fulfill the requirement.