

YOUNG SCHOLARS OF CENTRAL PA CHARTER SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL
GRADES 6-8



Service As Action

YSCP IB Mission Statement

Young Scholars of Central PA Charter School recognizes that academic abilities range from the intellectually gifted to the academically challenged. Each student will be encouraged, through adaptations or additions to individual programs of study, to strive for his or her maximum potential. The educational environment includes families, teachers and students communicating on a regular basis to assess and optimize students' successes and to incorporate activities which contribute to complete personal, social, physical and esteem development.

What is MYP Service as Action?

Directly from International Baccalaureate Organization: Action and service has always been shared values of the IB community. Students take action when they apply what they are learning in the classroom and beyond. IB learners strive to be caring members of the community who demonstrate a commitment to service - making a positive difference to the lives of others and to the environment. Service as action is an integral part of the programme, especially in the MYP community project.

Service requires that students are able to build authentic connections between what they learn in the classroom and what they encounter in the community. These service as action opportunities should be some type of community service that uses what they have learned from a lesson, a specific class, or a unit.

Examples:

- Mathematics: students could volunteer at a food bank and help determine the ratio of food that should be given to families based on the amount of individuals in the family
- Language Acquisition: tutor English Language Learner students from YSCP in younger grades or the surrounding community
- Language and Literature: writing notes to elderly individuals using grammar rules learned in class
- Individuals and Societies: volunteering at a cultural night at Penn State or YSCP
- Science: Volunteering in a state park, animal shelter, or another area that could apply the sciences learned in class
- Physical Education: help with a charity run in the community
- Art: volunteering in art clubs during the after school program

Required Hours

Each grade needs to meet the minimum number of service hours listed below dependent on grade.

6th Grade	5 hours
7th Grade	10 hours
8th Grade	15 hours*

*the Community Project will count as service hours

MYP Learning Outcomes for Service

Below are learning outcomes from the IB organization. Students do not need to meet everyone. They can choose one or two to focus on. When the student reflects on their service activity, he or she should address the learning outcome(s) that they met.

With appropriate guidance and support, MYP students should, through their engagement with service as action:

- Become more aware of their own strengths and areas for growth
- Undertake challenges that develop new skills
- Discuss, evaluate and plan student-initiated activities
- Persevere in action
- Work collaboratively with others
- Develop international-mindedness through global engagement, multilingualism and intercultural understanding
- Consider the ethical implications of their actions.

Reflection

When a student completes a service as action activity, he or she is expected to write a reflection. This reflection should be done within two weeks of completing the activity. After the reflection is completed, the student must turn in the activity form and the reflection to their supervising teacher. The reflection could be in writing, a voice recording/podcast, video reflection, or another creative way.

The reflection should discuss what the student learned from the activity. What were the challenges? How did he/she overcome them? It should not be a lengthy description of what the student did, but rather an insightful reflection of the learning outcome(s). For example, students could reflect on the things that went well, the things that did not go so well, and how would they improve their performance or the project if they could do it again.

One possible way students can write their reflections is to follow DeBono's Six Thinking Hats:



White hat - Facts. Write down the facts about the activity

Black hat - Negative thoughts. What didn't you like? What wasn't successful?

Yellow hat - Positive thoughts. What worked well? What did you enjoy?

Red hat - emotions. How did this experience make you feel?

Green hat - creative thoughts. How could you improve this?

Blue hat - thinking about thinking. Is the activity you did the right thing to do for the situation?

Another possible way to reflect is using the reflection prompts:

- I felt...
- I wondered...
- I tried...
- I learned...
- I used...

Common Questions about Service as Action:

What should I do before going to my service as action activity?

Contact the location (with parent permission) you want to work with and make sure that you are able to volunteer there. Explain to the person that you are doing this for service hours and will need them to sign a paper saying that you were there. Please print the required form, fill it out before attending, have the supervising adult sign the paper, and then proceed to your reflection.

Who is my supervising teacher?

Each student's supervising teacher can change from activity to activity. Since each activity must relate to a concept learned in class, the supervising teacher should be the teacher of the class.

What is a good service activity?

That is a tough one, but a good service activity is one that:

- Meets a need
- Is something you care about
- Something where you understand the issue or problem
- Involves other people
- Has a responsible adult supervisor who understands that activity and is able to comment on your participation
- Enables you to meet the learning outcomes

What is not authentic service?

This is another tough question, but it typically would not be authentic service if it involves:

- Personally rewarded financial or another benefit (unless it is then donated to a good cause)
- Simple, tedious, and repetitive work (stacking book shelves)
- Chores in the family (washing dishes or cleaning)
- Fundraising with no understanding of the cause

Student Name: _____

Grade _____

Student Directions:

In order of your experience to be counted, you must:

1. Take this form with you when you plan to complete a service activity. Be sure to complete this entire form and have the supervisor of your activity sign it and fill out their phone number and email address. The supervisor should be over the age of 18 and not related to you.
2. After your Service as Action, reflect entirely and related to a concept or lesson learned in class.
3. Turn in this paper with your reflection to your supervising teacher.

Date of Service: _____

Time of Service: _____

Hours Served: _____

Organization Served: _____

Description of Activity (filled out by student)

Filled out by Supervising Adult at Place of Service:

Name of Supervising Adult: _____

Signature of Adult: _____

Supervisor Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Attach Reflection (completed after the service)

Supervising Teacher: _____ Signature: _____