

**ABLE Charter Schools | 2020-2021**  
**Service Program Guidelines**  
COVID Edition – *All In This Together*

**Purpose:**

Embodying the longstanding traditions of Humphreys University and the innovative, whole-child policies of ABLE Charter Schools, the service ethic thrives at ABLE through its service programs. Through these programs, student volunteers participate in meaningful projects that have positive impacts at home and when safe, in their neighborhood or community. ABLE recognizes that volunteerism also has a positive influence on students who volunteer by building a sense of confidence and accomplishment and adding to the students' understanding of the problems that face our community.

**Definition:**

Service is defined as 'volunteering one's time, without pay, for the greater good and welfare of another individual, unit or business.'

**COVID Edition:**

Due to the spread of COVID-19 and its limitations, ABLE's service continuum program is adapting for the 2020-2021 school year and expanding to include all grades. Service this school year will be optional. Students wishing to participate can engage in a service program can engage on their grade grouping. See guidelines by grade grouping, in the next three sections. *Note: Students should only engage in service activities that are safe and age appropriate. At no time should students participate in activities that pose a risk to their health or the health of others.*

**Guidelines for K-4<sup>th</sup> graders:**

Possible service activities for grades Kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> include, but are not limited to:

Folding/putting away laundry; watering plants; sweeping; feeding/caring for pets; dusting

**Guidelines for 5-8<sup>th</sup> graders:**

Possible service activities for grades 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> include, but are not limited to:

Yard work; separate and/or condense recyclables; help a sibling with schoolwork; house project; send letters and/or cards to seniors at facilities or to long-term hospital patients

**Guidelines for 9-12<sup>th</sup> graders:**

Possible service activities for grades 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> include, but are not limited to:

Teach sibling, relative or peer a new skill; volunteer with a local business/community organization; arrange and execute a community drive; clean-up a local park; participate in an elderly pen pal project; create how-to guided videos; serve as a \*student election officer (16+);  
\*donate blood (17+)

*\*application process and permission required*

**Non-Applicable Services:**

Activities that are not in accordance with ABLE's definition of "Service" are not eligible for consideration under the service program. ABLE reserves the right to determine whether a service is applicable. To determine, if a service is permissible please read the next section, Pre-Approval.

*Continued on next page*

**Pre-Approval:**

Students in grades K-4 will work on class service projects through their homeroom teacher. All service inquiries for elementary students should be directed to the student's teacher.

Students in grades 5-12 who wish to determine if a service is appropriate should submit a description of the service using the following electronic form: <http://bit.ly/ablepreapprove> After completing the form students will receive a response via email which indicates whether the service is applicable and/or if an alternative service is suggested.

**Tracking & Submitting:**

When volunteering, time served can be entered into an electronic form ABLÉ has in place, at <http://bit.ly/ableserves> Students in grades 5-12<sup>th</sup> grade will be responsible for entering their own time served, while students participating in grades K-4<sup>th</sup> would be coordinated by their homeroom teacher.

**Incentives:**

K-4<sup>th</sup> – Free HW pass or extra game time for every 2.0 hours served, up to 8.0 hours.

5-8<sup>th</sup> – Certificate of Completion after completing 10.0 service hours. Free HW pass for every 5.0 hours served, up to 10.0 hours.

9-12<sup>th</sup> – A report outlining their time served. When applying for college, high school students are asked to note their community service efforts for all four years. Many colleges and universities review applications to determine if a student has engaged in meaningful activities and on-going activities outside of the classroom, seeking between 50-200 hours total. Volunteering can be added to college applications and a student's resume, as experience.

**Deadline:**

In the academic 2020-2021 school year, the deadline to participate in service is on before or by Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. In addition, all time entries should be entered by 11:59pm on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.