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# SSMS Community Project Guide

2023/2024

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# What is the Community Project?

The community project provides an important opportunity for students ages 13-14 to collaborate and pursue service learning. The MYP Community Project encourages students to reflect on their learning and the outcomes of their work – key skills that prepare them for success in further study, the workplace and the community.

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## **Step #1: Who am I working with and What am I doing?**

Before you reach out to a teacher in order to determine who your mentor will be you must make two choices.

First, am I working alone or am I working in a group? Your mentor will want to know this information.

Second, what kind of project do you want to complete? Your mentor will want to know the kind of project you plan to complete. Your mentor is not going to be calling/emailing organizations for you, that is up to you to do.

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## Step 2: Find a Mentor!

The role of the mentor is to support the student or group of students during the project. The mentor and the student/group should work closely as the project develops. **It is required that students and mentors meet a minimum of three times from October to April.** Students must work for a minimum of 8 hours on the CP. Mentor/student meetings count towards the 8 hours. **Mentors and students must keep a log/record of each meeting (Process Journal). Students MUST report the name of their mentor to Ms. Rubin in room 105. You must get approval from your mentor before reporting who that mentor is to room 105.**

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## Step #3: Know your Requirements

Requirements:

- 1- Find a Mentor and report the name of your mentor to room 105.
  - 2- You must meet with your mentor a MINIMUM of 3 times.
  - 3 - You must fill out a PROPOSAL FOR ACTION. This will detail for your mentor what your project will look like. You MUST submit this to your mentor .
  - 4 - Maintain a log of all meetings with your mentor. These will help you to create your PROCESS JOURNALS. PROCESS JOURNALS are required and are turned in with your project. You will write 4 Journals in total.
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## Step #3: Requirements Continued

Requirements:

5- Start your service! Students must work for a minimum of 8 hours on the Community Project. Mentor/student meetings count towards the 8 hours. Take lots of pictures to serve as evidence of your service.

6- Academic Honesty Form. A document that you sign saying that you did not plagiarize any part of your community service project. You **MUST** submit this form with your final project.

7- Proof of Service- the organization you volunteered for should give you a letter or documentation to prove that you completed your service.

8 - Presentation of Service during Community Project Fair

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# What goes in the Process Journal?

- Reflections on the project or on the MYP Global Contexts through which the topic is addressed
  - Student's understanding of ATL skills utilized to complete the project
  - Meeting notes, goals, next steps, etc
  - Planning information, contact information, etc.
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# Four Types of Service

When considering a plan of action ask yourself, does my plan fall into one of these categories? If so, how?

**Direct Service** - Interaction that involves people, the environment or animals.

**Indirect Service** - actions will benefit the community or environment without direct human interaction

**Advocacy** - Students speak on behalf of a cause or concern to promote action on an issue of public interest.

**Research** - Students collect information through varied sources, analyze data and report on a topic of importance to influence policy or practice.

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# Approved Organizations

Bethany House

St. Baldricks

Ruff House Rescue

Sounds of Silence

Paws of War

John Theissen Foundation of Wantagh

Ronald McDonald House

Wounded Warrior

No Dogs Left Behind

Project Great

Bobbi and the Strays

St. Judes Children's Hospital

Top Soccer

St. Agnes Food Pantry

Smile Train

Tunnel to Towers

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You may use organizations other than those listed on the previous slide, **HOWEVER**, you must make sure that your mentor approves your choice of project **AND** the organization you will be volunteering for. Your plan should not be to engage in actions like cleaning up local areas, unless you are representing an organization that has tasked you with doing so.

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# Civics

Civics are the study of the rights and obligations of citizens in society. In civics, students learn to contribute to public processes and discussions of real issues. Students can also learn civic practices such as voting, volunteering, jury service, and joining with others to improve society.

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# Seal of Civic Readiness



The Seal of Civic Readiness is a formal recognition that a student has attained a high level of proficiency in terms of civic knowledge, civic skills, civic mindset, and civic experiences. The Community Project is your first step in this process!

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# Am I Done? A checklist

- Proposal for Action
  - Academic Honesty Form
  - 4 Process Journals
  - 3 meetings with Mentor
  - Proof of Service
  - Presentation of Service
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