**Alexander City Schools**

# Wildcat Community Service Challenge



**“Serving Today for a Better Tomorrow”**

**Alexander City Schools**

**Wildcat Community Service Challenge**

## Purpose

The purpose of the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge* is multi-fold. First, we hope to instill in our students a sense of service that will assist in their personal and academic development. Such activities provide students with experiential opportunities to learn in the real world and to develop skills of citizenship and community engagement. Second, we hope to foster school system engagement with the larger community that furthers the academic and public purposes of the school system, while simultaneously strengthening our community. And third, student-based community service affords community partners with opportunities to address significant needs.

## Student Goals

* Students will develop a greater sense of personal interests and talents, self-worth, self-efficacy, personal identity, spiritual growth, and moral development.
* Students will experience interpersonal development, particularly the ability to work well with others, and build leadership and communication skills.
* Students will reduce stereotypes and gain a greater inter-cultural understanding.
* Students will understand social responsibility and develop citizenship skills.
* Students will develop life-long interests in community service.
* Students’ academic development will be positively impacted.
* Students will apply what they have learned in school to “the real world.”
* Students will develop higher order thinking skills, with a better understanding of complexity, ambiguity, problem analysis, problem solving, critical thinking, and cognitive development.
* Students will gain a better understanding of diversity, culture, and socio-economic differences in our community.
* Students will make connections with professionals and community members for learning and career opportunities.
* Students will develop leadership skills.

## Students Challenged

The *Wildcat Community Service Challenge* is issued toward all students of the Alexander City School System in grades 7 through 12.

## Community Service Work Requirements

* All community service work must be documented annually on the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge Documentation Form*.
* This initiative recognizes the importance of service in each student’s church or religious-based organization and within the student’s own school. However, it is important that students move outside their normal environments and build relationships across the community. Therefore, no more than 25% of the community service work shall be allowed for church/religious-based organizations and 25% for their own school. A minimum of 50% of the total community service hours must be outside church/religious organizations and the student’s own school.

## Work Requirements per Grade Level

* 7th – 8th Grade = 10 hours per year
* 9th – 12th Grade = 20 hours per year

## Community Service Requirements for Alabama High School Diploma with Honors

Beginning with the graduating class of 2022-23, those students seeking the *Honors*

*Diploma* tract must complete 80 hours of community service collectively in grades 9-12. The only exceptions will be for students who enter our school system after starting the 9th grade or other extenuating circumstances approved by the principal and superintendent. Those entering after 9th grade must meet yearly requirements for each year of attending BRHS. In order to stay on track to meet the required 80 hours, students seeking the *Alabama High School Diploma with Honors* are encouraged to meet the yearly goals set forth in the *Wildcat Community Service Challenge*.

## Student Rewards for Completion of Challenge

* See the *Student Goals* section.
* Students’ completion of the challenge will be annually documented on their academic transcript, and the student will receive with a *Community Service Challenge Certificate.*
* Lists and pictures of completers will be annually published in local media outlets and school publications.
* Beginning with the 14-15 freshman class, students who meet the minimum hours of community service for each year in grades 9-12 will receive a *Community Service Diploma Endorsement*.
* When funds are made available through sponsorship or the local school systems, small favors such as t-shirts or other items may be made available to completers of the challenge. No guarantee of such rewards is made.

## Submittal of Documentation

* Students in grades 7-12 will submit documentation of completed community service by the end of the third nine-week grading period each school year. On a yearly basis, the principal will provide directions for submittal.
* All community service must be documented as required and an official of the community organization/agency must sign for each event.
* A school committee will yearly evaluate submitted documentation and approve the community service hours for each student. If the committee finds a discrepancy, an effort to resolve the matter with the student will be made by the committee. All approved documentation will be forwarded by the committee to school counselors to be filed and noted on transcripts.

**Alexander City Schools**

***Wildcat Community Service Challenge* Documentation Form**

**Community Service Certificate**: Students who yearly complete the minimum hours of community service will receive a *Community Service Certificate,* with the accomplishment also being noted on their academic transcript.

The yearly requirements for service are as follows: 7th-8th grade = 10 hours; 9th-12th grade = 20 hours.

**Honors Diploma Requirement:** Beginning with the graduating class of 2022-23, those students seeking the *Honors Diploma* tract must complete 80 hours of community service collectively in grades 9-12.

**Requirements**: This form must be completed, signed, and returned to the school by the end of the third nine week grading period each school year.

This is to certify that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 (NAME OF STUDENT) (SCHOOL) has performed volunteer service at no pay on the date and location listed below.

Name of Organization/Non-Profit/Event: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date of Event**  | **Time In**  | **Time Out**  | **Total Hours per Day**  |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |

Specific Duties/Services Performed:

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Supervisor’s Signature Student’s Signature Date

## Wildcat Community Service Challenge

**Examples of Community Service Opportunities**

### Community Agencies

Alexander City Rescue Squad

American Red Cross

ARISE, Inc

Boy Scouts

Boys & Girls Clubs

Camp ASCCA

Camp Fire USA

Domestic Violence Intervention Center

Food Bank of East Alabama

Girl Scouts

Head Start

Lake Martin Laubach Literacy Council

Meals on Wheels

Palmer Place Child Advocacy Center

Tallapoosa Aid to People (TAP)

The Lighthouse of Tallapoosa County

The Salvation Army

Tri-County Children’s Advocacy Center

United Way

Volunteer Connections of Central Alabama

### Community Initiatives

2-1-1 Statewide Referrals for Human Services

Children’s Summer Reading Program

Coast2CoastRx – Prescription Card Savings

EFSP (Emergency Food & Shelter Program)

Home Depot Veteran’s Home Repairs

Prosperity Again Thru Health (PATH)

### Other

Local Schools

Local Hospitals

Humane Society

Community Events

Chamber Events

Community Organizations