

Student Service Learning (SSL)

What is Student Service Learning?

(click here:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/whatisssl/whatisssl2.html>)

5 Points of Information Regarding Student Service Learning (SSL)

Students gain KNOWLEDGE from high quality student service learning.

1. SSL is a graduation requirement in the state of Maryland. Understand the SSL plan in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) by contacting the SSL coordinator in any middle or high school and exploring the SSL Web site www.mcpsssl.org.
2. Service performed during the summer for which SSL hours are desired must be documented on MCPS Form 560-51, Student Service Learning Activity Verification and turned in to the SSL coordinator by September 28.
3. One's personal interests may be the starting point to address real community needs. Explore service-learning opportunities through categories of interest at the SSL Web site www.mcpsssl.org.
4. Holidays and early release days are great times to get involved in service-learning activities. Stay aware of service opportunities promoted at school through bulletin boards, television shows, and morning announcements
5. SSL is provided without financial compensation.

Student Service Learning Deadlines

- Documentation of all service performed during the summer is due to the SSL coordinator by the last Friday in September (this year September 26).

- Documentation of all service performed during the first semester is due to the SSL coordinator by the Friday before first semester exams begin (this year January 9, 2009).
- Documentation of all service performed during the second semester is due to the SSL coordinator by the Friday before second semester exams begin (this year June 5, 2009)

Student Service Learning Details

Please make sure the following information is included:

- Reflection statement
- All items completed
- A correct Student ID number (six digits)
- A parent's signature

A copy that shows the organization listed on the MCPS SSL approved list <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/ssi/> or an approved "Student Service Learning Activity Verification Form"

Forms will be returned to students for completion if information is missing, incorrect or additional documentation is necessary. SSL hours will be awarded when a complete and approved form is submitted.

Students are encouraged to maintain records of the SSL hours they have earned by keeping copies of all forms and a log of their involvement. Review regularly the section of your report card where the record of required, earned and remaining SSL hours to complete appears.

Follow these steps if the organization and activity are on an approved MCPS SSL list:

1. Earn your SSL hours
2. Complete the MCPS Form "**Student Service Learning Activity Verification Form**". [Link to
http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-51.pdf](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-51.pdf)

3. Write your reflection statement (a minimum of 6 sentences).
 - What action did you perform?
 - How did your action benefit individuals in the community?
 - What did you learn about yourself as a result of your actions?
4. Write your correct ID number (six digits).
5. Attach a copy of the web page with the name of the approved organization.
6. Complete the entire verification form and return to the SSL coordinator prior to the deadline.

What to do if the organization and activity are not on the approved MCPS SSL list:

1. Complete and submit the form, "*Request for Student Service Learning Preapproval*". [Link to](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-50.pdf)
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-50.pdf>
SSL hours can ONLY be credited if you complete and submit the form "Application for Student Service Learning Activity " **in advance** of the earned SSL hours.
2. This form must be submitted and approved by Mrs. Herman and returned to you before you begin your SSL hours. Submit your form at least 10 days in advance to allow enough time to have it approved and returned to you. Once you have **received approval** follow the steps listed for an approved organization.
3. Earn your SSL hours.
4. Complete the "**Application for Student Service Learning Special Activity form**" [Link to](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-51.pdf)
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/ssl/pdf/560-51.pdf>

Write your reflection statement (a minimum of 6 sentences).

- What action did you perform?
- How did your action benefit individuals in the community?
- What did you learn about yourself as a result of your actions?

5. Write your correct student ID number (six digits).
6. Complete the entire verification form and return to the SSL coordinator, Mrs. Herman, prior to the deadline.

Forms and information are located by the SSL Bulletin Board in the counseling office. Additional forms and information are on the webpage.

<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/ssl/>

www.mcpsssl.org (MCPS web site)

Superintendent's Service Learning Award

The Department of Student Applications has created a program that will allow each SSL coordinator to access a list of qualified recipients for the superintendent's SSL award through OASIS in May, 2009. With this assurance, there will no longer be a paper application required for this award. Qualifying hours for this award do not include those automatically awarded to full participation and successful completion of courses in 6th Grade science, 7th Grade English and 8th Grade social studies.

The Middle School Superintendent's Service Learning Award is given to students:

- who have provided 75 hours of community service outside the instructional day between May 1, 2008 and April 30, 2009
- who have documented all service on MCPS form 560-51, Student Service Learning Activity Verification
- turned in all verification forms to the school SSL coordinator, Mrs. Herman, by May 7, 2009.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards honor young people in middle level and high school grades for outstanding volunteer service to their communities. Created in 1995 by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), the awards constitute the United States' largest

youth recognition program based solely on volunteering. Over the past 13 years, the program has honored more than 80,000 young volunteers at the local, state, and national level.

You can apply online for The 2009 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards! Click below to start, continue or check the status of an online application.

<http://www.prudential.com/view/page/public/14544>

Current Student Service Learning Opportunities

1. Read about SSL on the web pages and the booklet, "Student Service Learning Important Information "
2. For approved activities, click here:
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/Content/Volunteer/ssl.asp>
3. Read the Baker PAWS Newsletter, Baker MS Website for current volunteer activities or the We Volunteer Website
(<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgtmpl.asp?url=/cont>)

[ent/volunteer/WE_volunteerNews.asp](#)) for current approved volunteer activities.

4. Contact an approved organization

- **Damascus Community Fair:** MCPS students may earn SSL hours for participation in setting up and managing fair activities at the Damascus Community Fair September 3-7.
- **Manna:** If you're interested in volunteering, donating food, or making a financial contribution, please contact us at: 301-424-1130 www.mannafood.org
- Students interested in earning SSL hours while working with young children must do so with a non-profit organization—such as Montgomery County Recreation Department, MCPS, etc. Applications for SSL Special Activities with **for-profit** organizations of this nature such as camps and day care will no longer be approved.
- SSL hours for involvement in auditioning, practicing, training, rehearsing, etc. in activities such as dance, sport, and music may be earned when such talents are shared with the greater community. A performance to nursing home residents, hospital patients, visit to a homeless shelter etc. are examples. **Hours are available for the actual performance only, not the practice sessions and/or training involved in developing the skill.** We are focusing on the practice that the service-learning activity meets a recognized need in the community, that students achieve curricular objectives etc. For further clarification, please call the SSL Coordinator, Mrs. Herman, at 301-253-7015.
- For-profit assisted living and nursing home facilities remain the only for-profit locations where students may earn SSL hours in MCPS. If these organizations are not listed on the pre-approved for SSL list then the student is required to complete an **Application for SSL Special Activity** approved in advance of any service with these for-profit organizations. Service with these organizations must be direct to the residents, nothing to support the profitability of the for-profit business.
- The Democratic and Republican political parties are listed as "Approved SSL MCPS". Students may earn hours performing tasks with those organizations that are tagged "MCPS SSL Approved."
- **The MC Board of Elections is** an approved organization and the opportunities identified below are approved opportunities there. Questions should be referred to Dr. Zelaya (Dr.Z) Gilberto.Zelaya@montgomerycountymd.gov.

- Students may earn SSL hours for supporting an individual running for public office. Many students may want to get involved in this election season. Things to remember:
 1. MCPS staff may not promote a specific candidate.
 2. An approved 560-50 is required in advance of any service
 3. Students may not canvas neighborhoods, or make calls for financial contributions
 4. All service must occur in public places (campaign headquarters, library, etc.) under the supervision of an adult representing the campaign (not a relative.)

- **Board of Elections Seeks Student Aides to Work at 2008 Election**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections is seeking students, grades six to twelve, to serve as Election Day student aides during the 2008 Presidential General Election. Students must attend mandatory training to serve on Election Day and, if applicable, receive Student Service Learning (SSL) hours. Students will be placed according to home addresses into neighboring precincts. This initiative combines civic participation with an opportunity to observe democracy in action. This program is available to all students within a public, private, independent, religious, or home-school setting located in Montgomery County. U.S. citizenship is not a pre-requisite to participate. Students with bilingual and American Sign Language skills are encouraged to apply. E-mail Future.Vote@montgomerycountymd.gov for an application. Students will be notified if selected to participate.

ELECTION AIDE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Greet voters, clearly, articulately, offer assistance and/or voter information such as sample ballots;
2. Be aware of and offer suggestions for voters having difficulty with standing;
3. Regarding Voter Access Cards, maintain oversight of Voter Access Card box and provide voters with verbal direction to place cards in box; do not handle cards. Cards must remain in polling room;
4. Maintain neatness in polling room and hall leading into polling room; be able to move around polling room and hallway pick up and dispense literature/trash;

5. For voters, open doors to polling facility as necessary;
6. Provide directions to rest rooms and polling room exits as necessary;
7. Be able to provide voters with accessibility information and be sensitive to all voters including those with special needs;
8. If requested, be able to provide voter information assistance in a second language or American Sign Language (ASL);
9. In polling places with unique physical structures, assist with voters' access to polling room, via such as elevators, gates, key or pad locks.

Gilberto "Dr. Z" Zelaya II, Ph.D.

Montgomery County Board of Elections, Community Outreach Liaison

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