

# Michigan Student Service Award

Sponsored by the Volunteer Centers of Michigan, the Michigan Student Service Award (MSSA) is a premier statewide program that recognizes high school graduates who volunteer and **document 400 hours of non-paid community service** that meet a recognized community need, under the auspices of a nonprofit organization, government program, community group or school. Each student that fulfills the program requirements during the course of their high school career receives: a Michigan Student Service Award Medallion of Distinction, a Certificate of Distinction for commitment to service from Volunteer Kalamazoo and Volunteer Centers of Michigan that is signed by the Governor, and inclusion in community-wide recognition efforts in the media and on Volunteer Kalamazoo's website.

## HOW DOES THE AWARD PROGRAM WORK?

Over the course of their four years in high school, students must complete and document at least **400 hours of non-paid community service**. These activities must meet a recognized community need, and be undertaken through nonprofit organizations, government programs, community groups, or schools.

## WHAT KINDS OF SERVICE COUNT TOWARD THE AWARD?

- Direct Service, such as river clean up, tutoring, spending time with a nursing home resident
- Indirect Service, such as computer data entry, fundraising, food collection, board or committee work for a nonprofit
- Civic Engagement, advocacy or community organizing, such as beautification, mural painting, community surveys
- **70% of service hours must take place in the student's county of residence or local community**
- Activities for school or church that serve more than just students at the school or the congregation of the church

## WHAT DOES NOT COUNT TOWARD THE AWARD?

- Church-related activities that only involve your congregation (examples: Bible school, childcare at church, pancake breakfasts)
- School activities that only involve those connected to school (examples: cheer leading, student council, classroom/office aide, coaching assistant, decorating for prom, homecoming floats, concessions at sporting events)
- Volunteer work done for school credit
- Fundraisers to raise money for school programs
- Campaign work for political candidates

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

1. Still need hours? Volunteer! **Search** for volunteer opportunities and **apply to volunteer online**.
2. Record your hours in your online account with Volunteer Kalamazoo or use our **Volunteer Activity Log** and submit them to Volunteer Kalamazoo throughout your high school career. You must obtain signatures on the volunteer activity log sheet from the agency staff who supervised each of the activities. This documentation must be submitted to Volunteer Kalamazoo, which will maintain a permanent record of service hours.
3. Inform Volunteer Kalamazoo of your intent to apply for the MSSA **by February 1, 2015** either by email or phone [monica@volunteerkalamazoo.org](mailto:monica@volunteerkalamazoo.org) or calling 269.382.8350 x 205 .
4. Submit the [Michigan Student Service Award Essay](#) **by March 1, 2015**.
5. Certificates and Medallions will be presented at Graduation or similar ceremonies