



american international school
SALZBURG · AUSTRIA

COMMUNITY SERVICE INITIATIVE

This initiative has been put in place to enrich and educate students about the global community in which they belong. The goal is to increase participation in volunteer efforts from the students. It is our expectation that at the close of an academic year, all students will have completed a total of 36 community service hours. High school students are to fulfill 30 hours of their own choosing within their home community or the location where they are spending their vacation time. The remaining six hours will be organized by the school and will take place throughout the school year.

BENEFITS

The benefits of this type of activity are not only to create awareness of issues that affect our global and local communities, but also should bring a new appreciation for student's current living conditions. Students should become proud of the effect they can have on a community and its members; while becoming more considerate, responsible, and active members of society.

Furthermore, it is becoming increasingly important to university admissions offices that students demonstrate experience in service to their community. Taking full advantage of this initiative will help students grow as individuals and make them more conscientious community participants. The time students spend working on volunteer activities and projects will be added to their official school transcripts. If done properly, this initiative serves as a platform for AIS-Salzburg graduates to differentiate themselves from other university applicants.

EXPECTATIONS

Community service hours will be recorded in PowerSchool throughout the year. While these records do not effect GPA or grades, they will be included on transcripts passed on from the school. It is important to realize that if no service hours are accumulated, it will appear on the transcript as completing 0 hours of community service. This will reflect negatively on the student when applying to schools or universities. The following are the expectations of AIS-Salzburg students:

- 30 Hours - Student Organized Services
- 6 Hours - School Organized Services
- Junior Class Community Service Project

EXPLANATION

Student Organized Activities

Students grades 9-12 and *Post-Graduates* are expected to complete 30 hours of community service organized by themselves. These activities must be approved prior to the event by Mr. Louis Suttmann, a record must be kept and signed by the advisor of the activity, and a post activity questionnaire filled out. This worksheet has been created for students and can be downloaded from the school's website (www.ais-salzburg.at) under the "useful forms" tab, picked up in the Resident Assistant Office, or from Mr. Louis Suttmann. The following steps should be taken by the student:

1.) Decided who to help. Whether it be working within an organization or finding activities through local establishments.

Example #1: Contact the nearest senior citizen home and ask to volunteer service to those living in the home. Talking to those who are lonely, going for walks with them, or organizing a bingo night can go a long way.

Example #2: Contact the local animal shelter or veterinarian clinic to volunteer to help care for the animals. Walk the dogs, help feed the animals in care, etc.

Example #3: Volunteer as a summer camp counselor. Contact local churches and schools to see what opportunities they can provide during the summer hours. This could include helping children learn to read or spending time with special needs kids.

Example #4: Contact local non-profit organizations to see if they would like help planting flowers, caring for gardens, or picking up garbage in parks and pathways.

2.) Once the contact has been made and a schedule is arranged, the student should obtain a worksheet and complete the top section. This states where and what the student intends to do. This should then be submitted to Mr. Louis Suttmann for approval.

3.) A record should be kept of what service has been provided on the worksheet, complete with the advisor's signature.

4.) Upon completion of the service activity, the question and answer section on the back of the worksheet should be submitted to Mr. Louis Suttmann in order to receive any and all hours logged.

School Organized Activities

There will be many opportunities for students to participate in school organized service activities. Some will be mandatory, while others will be at the students discretion. These will be announced or listed on weekend activity sheets. The staff member who is responsible for the activity is also responsible for recording the service hours to be awarded to each student. Students must actively participate and will only be acknowledged for the amount of time served.

Junior Class Community Service Project

This project is a requirement for the Junior Class to participate in a multi-day project during the Fall Excursion period. Students will be informed about the activity and its details. After the completion of the service project, each student must write an essay describing what they have learned and experienced from their service. This is useful as a personal essay when applying to universities. This is intended to broaden horizons, inform students of the broader community they live in, and to learn about themselves.

WHEN TO BEGIN

Now! You may begin logging service hours as soon as the summer break has begun. The deadline for logging service hours is the completion of the third trimester of the school year.

GUIDELINES

- Students may not log services provided to family members. The following **DO NOT** count as service hours: helping a grandparent cut the grass, babysitting for younger siblings, household tasks given by a parent, and spending quality time talking with a grandparent. This list is not exhaustive.
- Students may not accept a monetary award for their services. This means that a summer job does not count as community service. All services must be on a voluntary basis only with no monetary compensation.
- All students must have permission from their parents, from the school, and from a responsible supervisor who will oversee their service.

SAMPLE COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Raise funds for a non-profit
- Volunteer at a hospital or school
- Help hand food out at a shelter
- Participate in Habitat for Humanity
- Visit a senior home and spend time with the elderly
- Pick up garbage in your local park
- Create a donation drive to collect items for families in need
- Become a mentor through "Big Brothers Big Sisters"
- Volunteer time to help take care of animals at a shelter

Helpful Links of Service Organizations:

- www.gapyear.com
- www.rusticpathways.com