

Public-Scholars Program Community Service Guidelines

As public school scholars, engaging in community service is essential for students. Performing community service offers college students an opportunity to improve and enrich their lives, gain perspective, and make a positive impact on the communities they are serving. It also allows them opportunities to give back to the high schools they came from. In addition, college students can typically include community service and volunteer activities on their resumes to show future employers and colleges/universities that they understand how worthwhile engaging with their local communities is.

Community Service is a mandatory requirement for each recipient of a Public-School Scholars Scholarship (Freshman through Senior). Students must complete a minimum of 5 hours each school year.

- Community Service is defined as volunteer service for an approved agency. The approved agencies include the Public High School from which the student graduated or any other Public High School within the Commonwealth of The Bahamas, The Scholarship and Educational Loans Division (SELD), and The Ministry of Education and Technical and Vocational Training (MOE).
- The Community Service Form must be completed by the Guidance Counselor designated by the Guidance Head of the Department if the service is rendered to a Public High School or an individual with Supervisory status if the service is rendered at SELD or MOE.

List of Approved Volunteer Activities:

- Speaking engagements at High School Assemblies (10 minutes)
(Suggested topics)
 - What was attending college/university like for the first time?
 - What was it like to leave home and family for the first time?
 - Did you enjoy traveling?
 - Did you adapt well to college and dorm life?
 - Did you meet lots of new friends?
 - Other topics approved by the relevant Supervisor.
- Small group sessions with seniors to discuss goal setting, meeting deadlines, and getting ready for college/university.
- Small group sessions with seniors about selecting college programs that best suit their needs and those of the country.
- Assist the students with the road map to college/university.
- Working within SELD as assigned by a supervisor.
- Working within MOE as assigned by a supervisor.

- Description of non-volunteer responsibilities. (These are **NOT** recommended as substitutes for approved volunteer activities and will not be accepted.)
 - Cleaning the classroom, file room, church office, and other paid or non-profit agencies.
 - Marking of exams or homework.

PSSP College Students who are not able to return home for the summer:

- Description of Volunteer Activities:
 - Contact the Guidance Department of your graduating high school and the PSSP office to seek approval for alternative qualifying service activities.
 - Proof must be received that you did not return home for the summer (e.g., summer class enrollment, employment, or other travel).

- Approved Activities: 2-minute Testimonials
(Freshman - Junior)
 - First-year Student: **“My College Ted Talk/Testimonial”** (First year in review)
 - Sophomore Student: **“My Programme/Major Ted Talk/Testimonial”** (How will it impact The Bahamas?)

(Junior-Senior Students)

- **Peer Mentoring**- includes helping with the college application and answering any questions the student may have about the campus, SAT/ACT, and transitioning from high school to virtual college sessions.
- **Structured Activities** designated by the Counseling Center of the College/University you are attending. Activities must be performed on campus and signed off by the head of the Counseling Unit.
 - **The student should write a** brief statement of the activity **and submit it** to the PSSP Office along with the scholarship renewal documents.