

Bernards Township Public Schools
Ridge High School

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Community Service/Service Learning Component

**For all students in Themes, College Preparatory, Honors US History and sophomores in AP US History
School Year 2017-2018**

It is the goal of any effective Social Studies program to provide a thorough civic education through promotion of active citizenship. Community service is a vehicle through which students can facilitate a positive change in their community. In essence, they are using their social-political participation skills to better the overall community. The most important facet of a community service-learning project is that it fosters in students a lifelong desire to learn and to help those around them.

Objective: Your goal will be to select one community or national organization and work with that organization to impact positive change.

Guidelines for an acceptable organization:

- See the published list of approved organizations on the *Community Service Opportunities* page on the Ridge High School website.
- Complete an approval form (also on the Ridge website) only for organizations NOT on the published list.
- Students are strongly encouraged to work with 1 (one) organization as we believe that contributes to a more meaningful experience. If extenuating circumstances make that impossible, students must obtain approval from the Social Studies Supervisor or your teacher to work with an approved 2nd organization. In this event, students are required to complete a reflective assignment for each organization.

We will accept a variety of activities as long as they meet the following criteria:

- the activity promotes positive change in the community
- there is a clear supervisor who can verify a student's efforts
- the students are not paid for their efforts

Procedure:

1. You will select 1 (one) organization and make contact to express your desire to help. Please visit the *Community Service Opportunities* page on the Ridge High School website for an overview of our community service program as well as links to specific community service opportunities, the approved list of organizations, and contact information for previous organizations. For any organization not listed on the approved list, you must obtain approval from your teacher, or the Social Studies Supervisor, before you begin your service project. The approval form can be found on the Community Service website.
2. You must complete 25 community-based service hours for Replacement, College Preparatory, Honors and AP (sophomores only) US History with your selected group and provide written documentation on the organization's letterhead (signed by a representative of the group). Please note that if you are working with a national group they should have local chapters with which you can make contact.

3. Hours must be completed between May 1, 2017 and April 30, 2018.
4. Keep a record of your service hours using the Community Service Log found on the Community Service website. This must be submitted with your reflective assignment.
5. You must complete the community service reflective assignment, which can be found on the Community Service website, within 30 days upon completion of the hours and then submitted to your US History teacher.
6. The 4th Marking Period grade for students who do not complete the community service hours will be lowered one letter grade. Students may appeal to the Social Studies Supervisor.

The following is a summary of what needs to be turned in to your US History teacher:

- Reflection on hand-made letterhead.
- Community Service Log of hours worked (found on website). This must be signed by the supervisor and include their contact information.